

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • WALKER • RATHBURN • RAUCH

INVINCIBLE



BEAN 12
RAUCH

VOLUME SIXTEEN
FAMILY TIES



image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

FAMILY TIES



CREATED BY
**ROBERT KIRKMAN
& CORY WALKER**

image®



writer

ROBERT KIRKMAN

penciler

CORY WALKER

[chapters 1-2]

RYAN OTTLEY

[chapters 3-6]

inker

CORY WALKER

[chapters 1-2]

CLIFF RATHBURN

[chapter 3, pgs 1-13, chapter 5-6]

RYAN OTTLEY

[chapter 3, pgs 14-20, chapter 4]

colorist

FCO PLASCENCIA

[chapters 1-2]

JOHN RAUCH

[chapters 3-6]

letterer

RUS WOOTON

editor

SINA GRACE

cover

**RYAN OTTLEY
& JOHN RAUCH**

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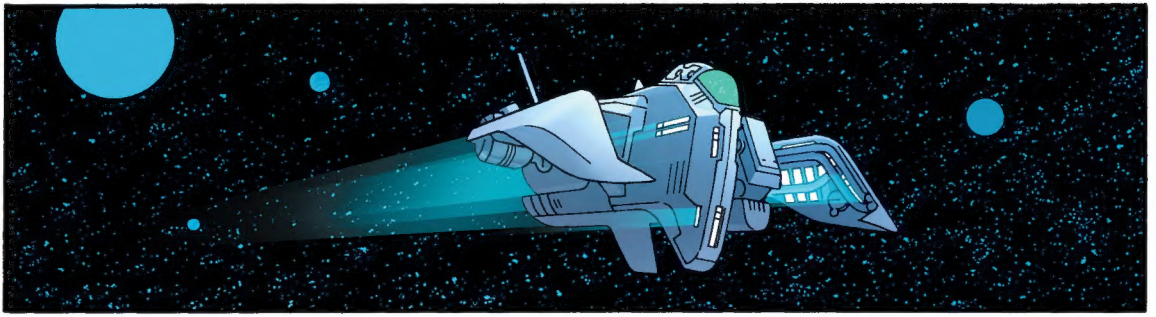
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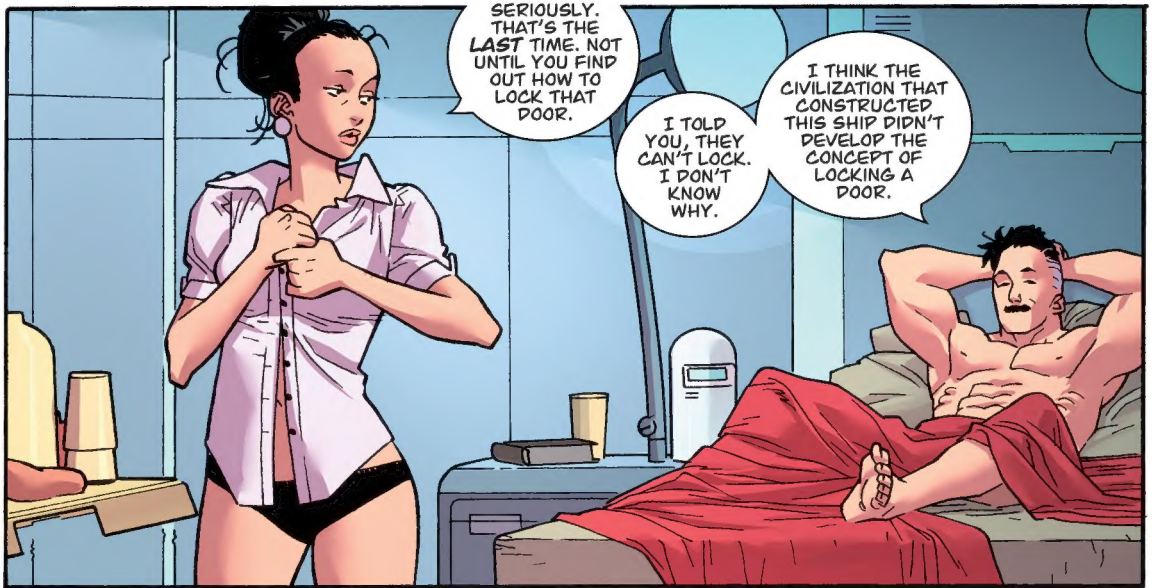
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CHAPTER ONE



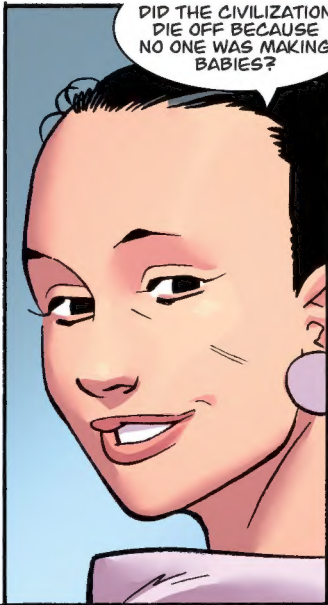




SERIOUSLY.
THAT'S THE
LAST TIME. NOT
UNTIL YOU FIND
OUT HOW TO
LOCK THAT
DOOR.

I TOLD
YOU, THEY
CAN'T LOCK.
I DON'T
KNOW
WHY.

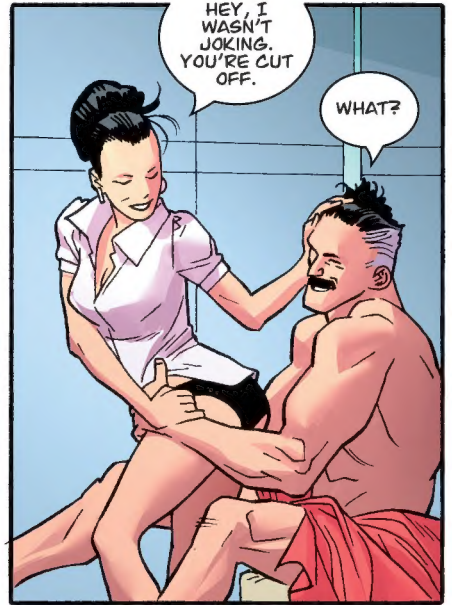
I THINK THE
CIVILIZATION THAT
CONSTRUCTED
THIS SHIP DIDN'T
DEVELOP THE
CONCEPT OF
LOCKING A
DOOR.



DID THE CIVILIZATION
DIE OFF BECAUSE
NO ONE WAS MAKING
BABIES?

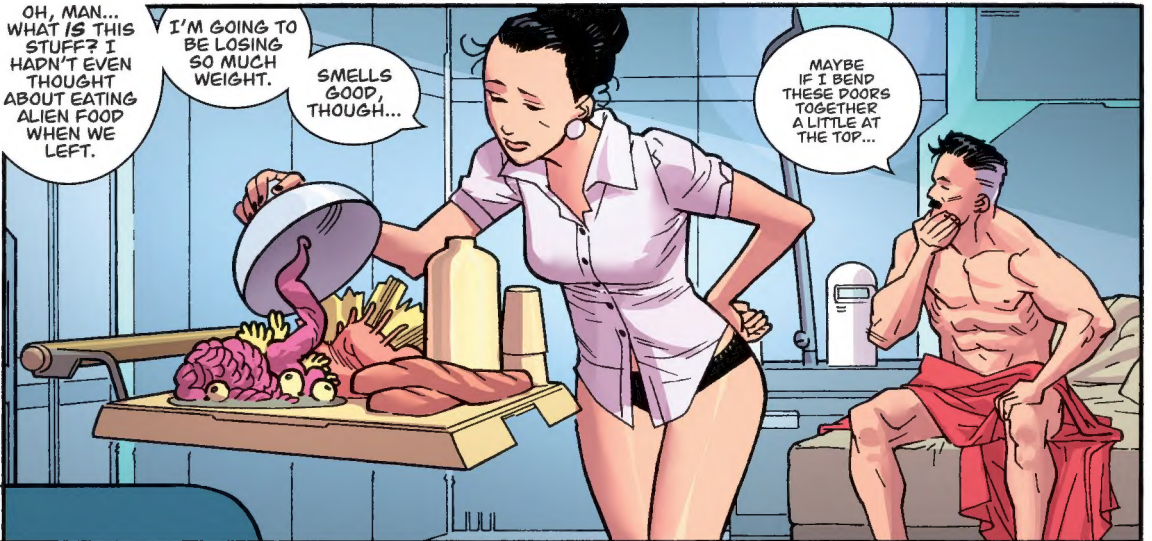


MAYBE THEY WERE
STUCK IN SPACE
SHIPS FOR DAYS ON
END WITH NOTHING
ELSE TO DO SO THEY
DIDN'T GIVE
A DAMN WHO
SAW?



HEY, I
WASN'T
JOKING.
YOU'RE CUT
OFF.

WHAT?



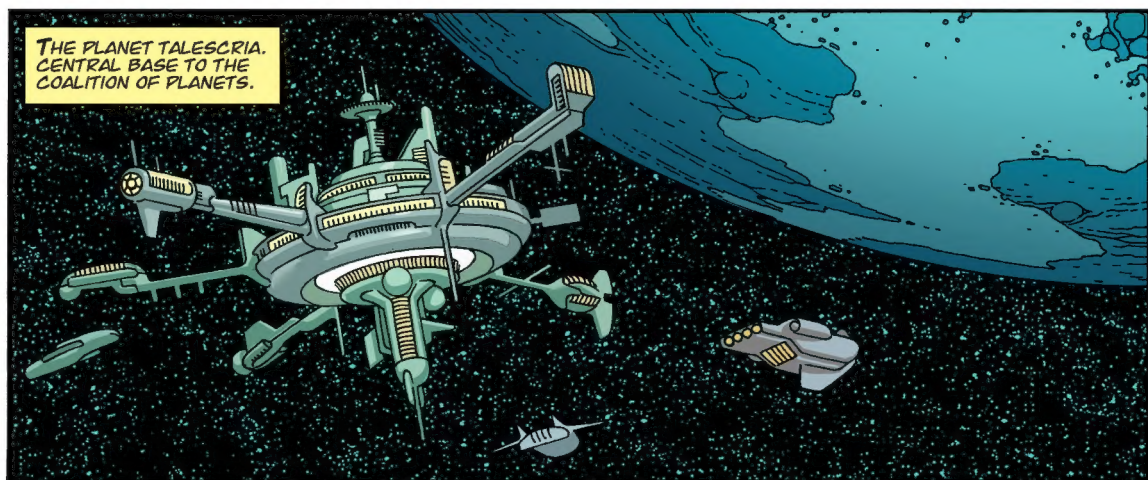
OH, MAN...
WHAT IS THIS
STUFF? I
HADN'T EVEN
THOUGHT
ABOUT EATING
ALIEN FOOD
WHEN WE
LEFT.

I'M GOING TO
BE LOSING
SO MUCH
WEIGHT.

SMELLS
GOOD,
THOUGH...

MAYBE
IF I BEND
THESE DOORS
TOGETHER
A LITTLE AT
THE TOP...

THE PLANET TALESORIA.
CENTRAL BASE TO THE
COALITION OF PLANETS.



SERIOUSLY, HE HAS
TO GO. EVER SINCE
HE WALKED IN ON US
YOU JUST HAVEN'T
BEEN THE SAME.

YOU'VE BEEN
HOLDING BACK
ON ME--ADMIT IT.
WHO CARES WHAT
HE SAW? HE
KNOWS WHAT
PEOPLE DO!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY HE CAN'T
JUST STAY AT
NOLAN'S PLACE
UNTIL HE
GETS
BACK!

HE'S JUST A
KID. I CAN'T
LEAVE HIM
ALONE IN THIS
CITY.

NOLAN
WOULD BE
PISSED.

STILL A KID?! I CAN'T
STAND THESE ALIEN
RACES THAT SPEND A
QUARTER OF THEIR
LIFESPAN AS
"KIDS!"

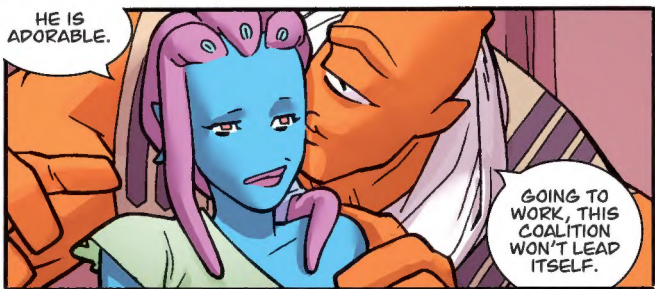
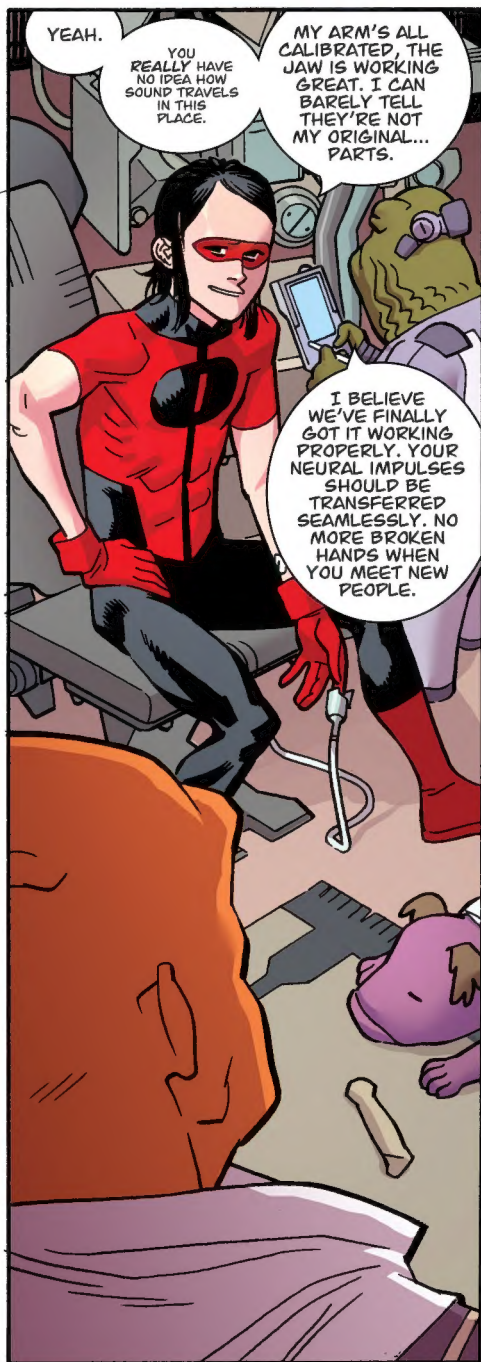
I HAVEN'T
SEEN MY
PARENTS
SINCE I WAS
THREE.

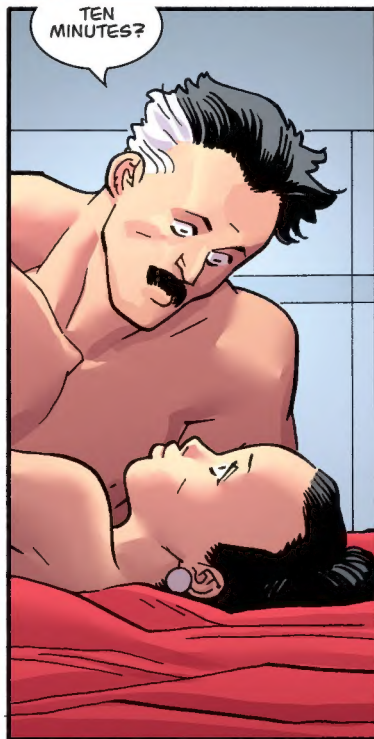
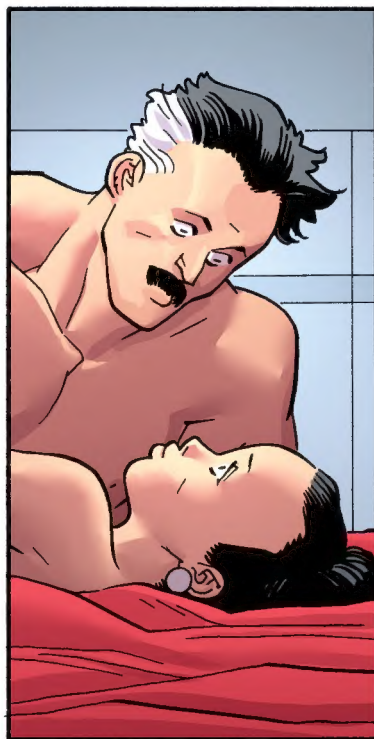
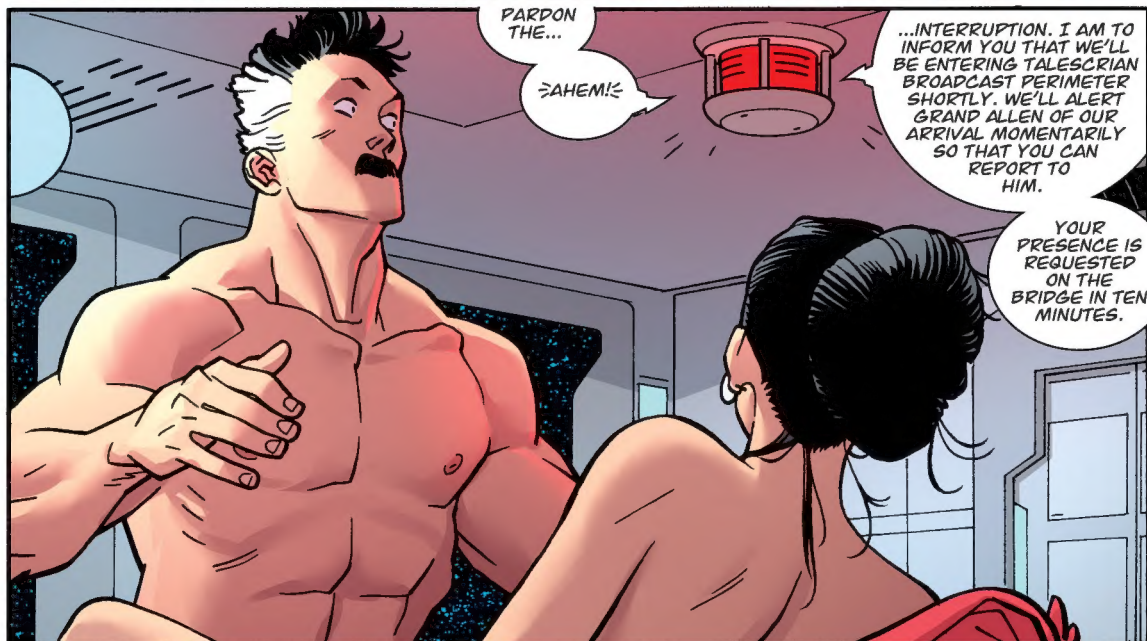
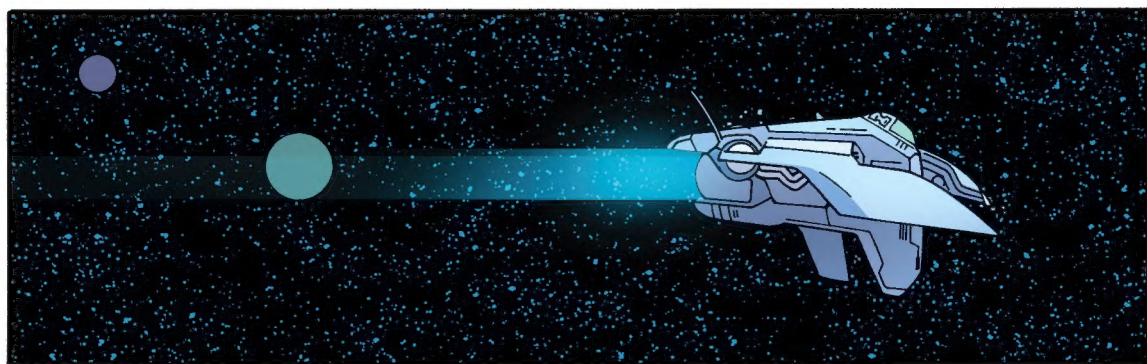
THE BOY
NEEDS HIS
HAND HELD SO
I HAVE TO
SUFFER?

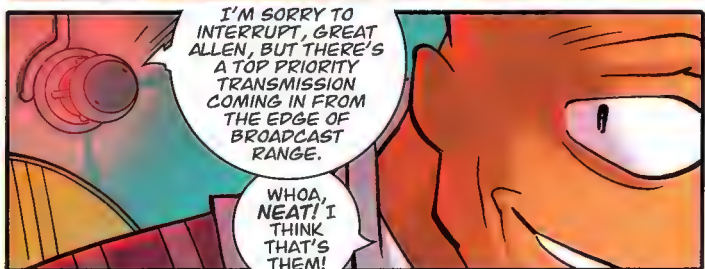
JUST
LISTEN TO
YOURSELF,
TELIA.

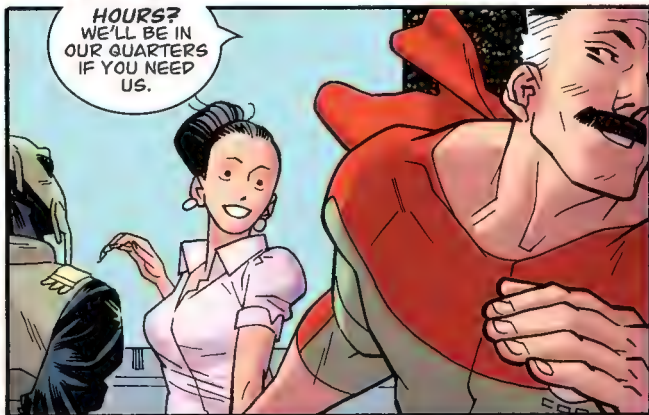
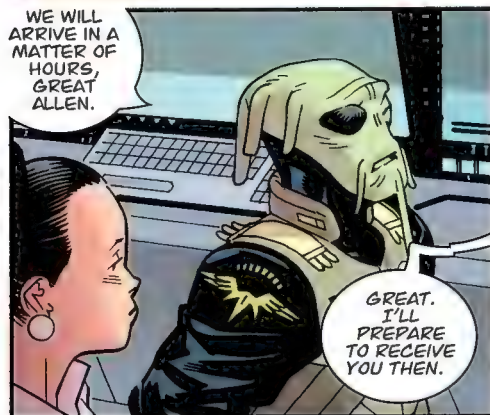
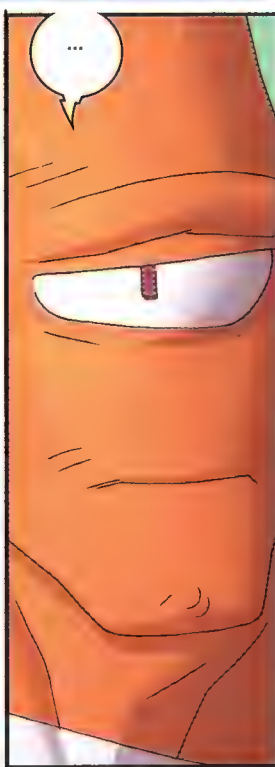
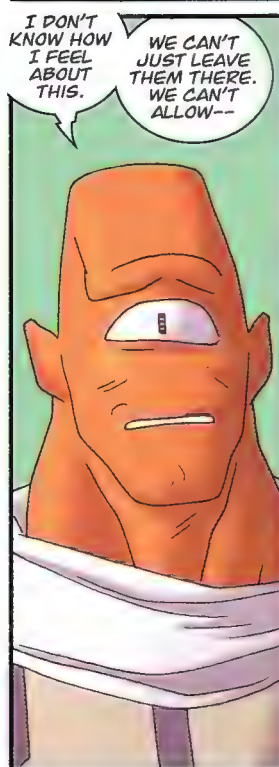
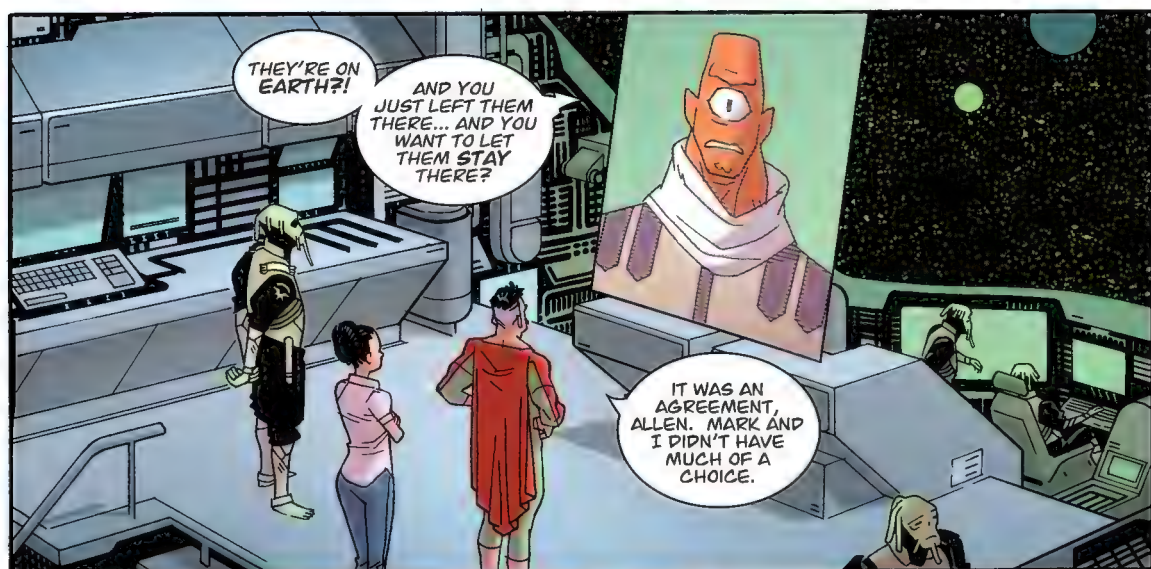
SOMETIMES
I'M RELIEVED
THAT OUR
SPECIES CAN'T
PRODUCE
OFFSPRING
TOGETHER.

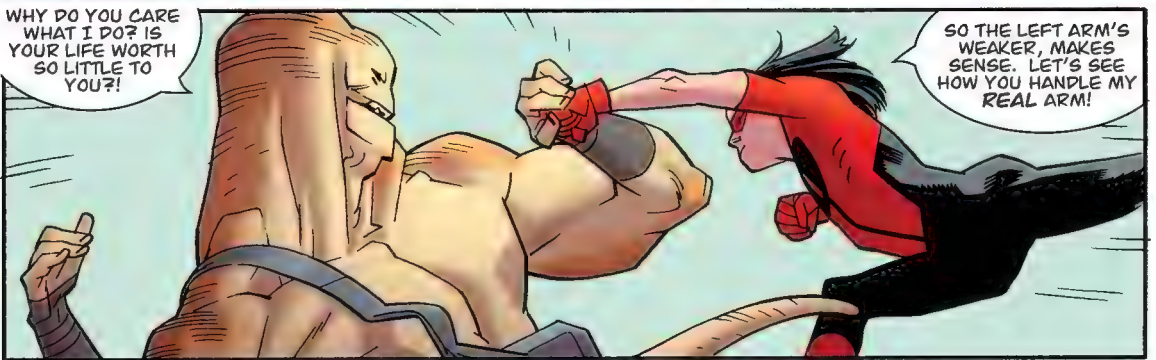
...
NOT
COOL.
ALLEN.
NOT
COOL.

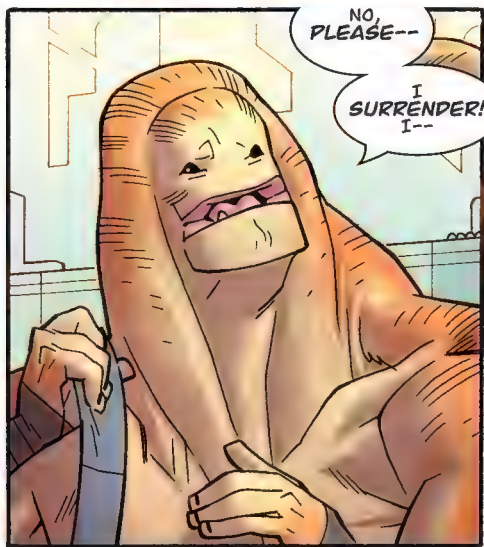
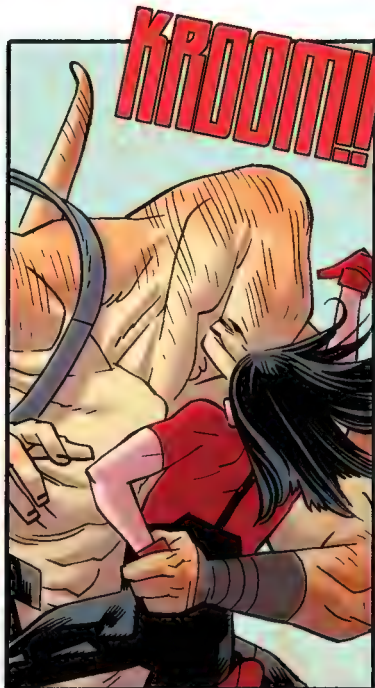


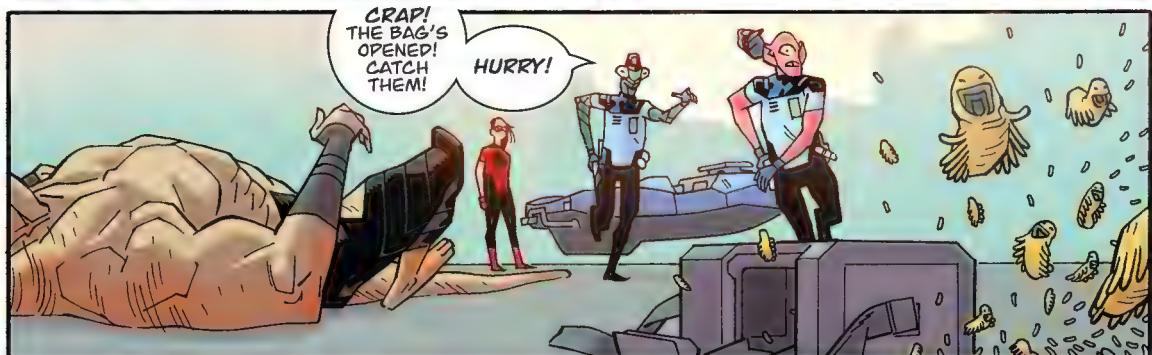


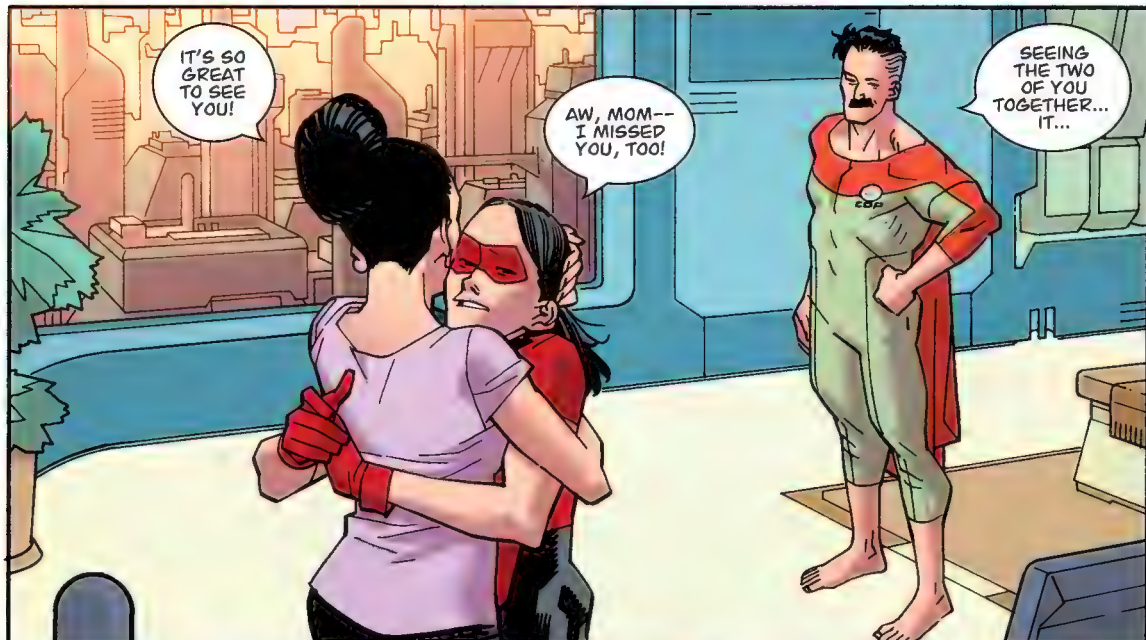














DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA THE POSITION YOU'VE PUT ME IN?

I KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE A BAD IDEA, BUT HEAR ME OUT--

BAD IDEA? IT'S A HORRIBLE IDEA! WE HAD THE VILTRUMITES ON THE RUN-- THEIR RANKS DEPLETED!

YOU PROPOSE WE LEAVE THEM ALONE--ON EARTH, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY A BREEDING CAMP!

I SHARE YOUR CONCERN, BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YEARS--DECADES OF LIVING WITH HUMANS IN ORDER TO ADD TO THEIR RANKS.

LOOK WHAT THAT DID FOR ME. I'M CONFIDENT IT COULD TRANSFORM MY PEOPLE... IT COULD BRING THE PEACE WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR.

FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T SHARE YOUR OPTIMISTIC IMPRESSION OF YOUR PEOPLE.



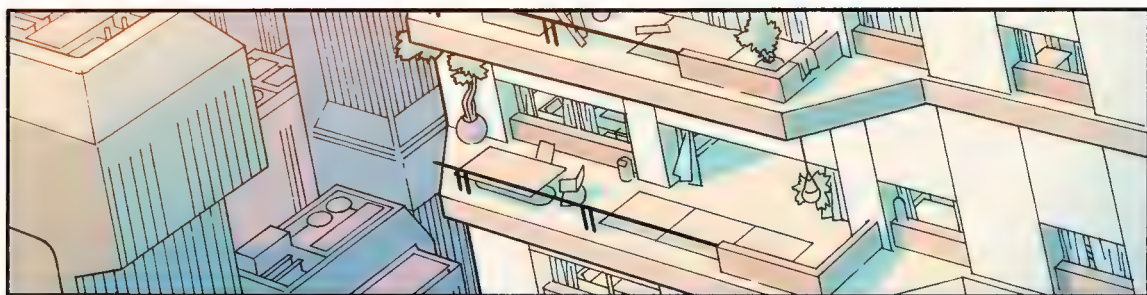
I'VE GOT COUNTLESS PLANETARY SYSTEMS TO REPORT TO, THEY RELY ON ME FOR THEIR PROTECTION.

I DON'T KNOW THAT I CAN JUST...

I'VE GOT A LOT TO CONSIDER. PLEASE...

...LEAVE ME.





IT WAS UNSETTLING TO SEE HIM THAT WAY--LIKE TALKING TO SOMEONE I DIDN'T KNOW.

ALLEN AND I HAVE A BOND... THIS SITUATION ON EARTH... IT HAS ME CONCERNED.

AS IT SHOULD. JUST BECAUSE THEY SAY THEY'RE NOT GOING TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE, DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD BELIEVE THEM.

YOUR PEOPLE ARE VERY GOOD LIARS.

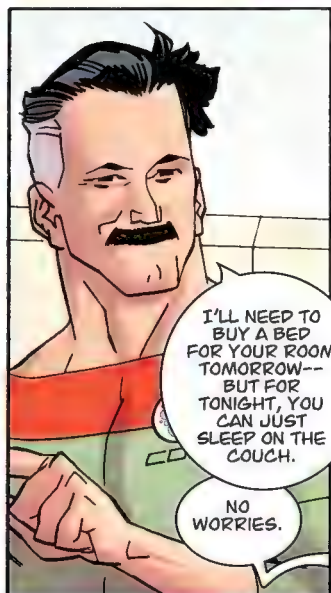


OKAY, I DESERVE THAT.



THIS PLACE IS TOTALLY GREAT. I WISH ALLEN HAD JUST LET ME STAY HERE WHILE YOU WERE GONE.

AND I'M GLAD HE KEPT YOU OUT OF TROUBLE.



I'LL NEED TO BUY A BED FOR YOUR ROOM TOMORROW-- BUT FOR TONIGHT, YOU CAN JUST SLEEP ON THE COUCH.

NO WORRIES.

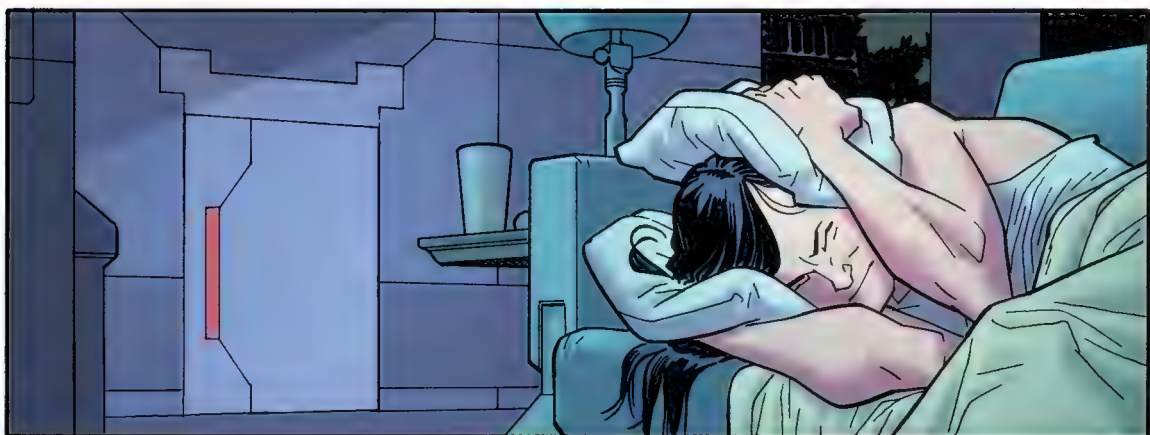
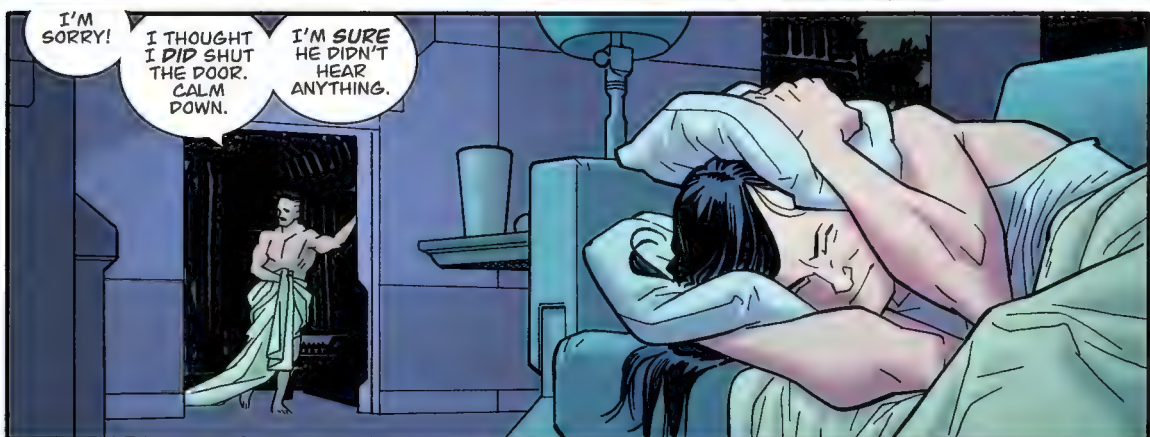
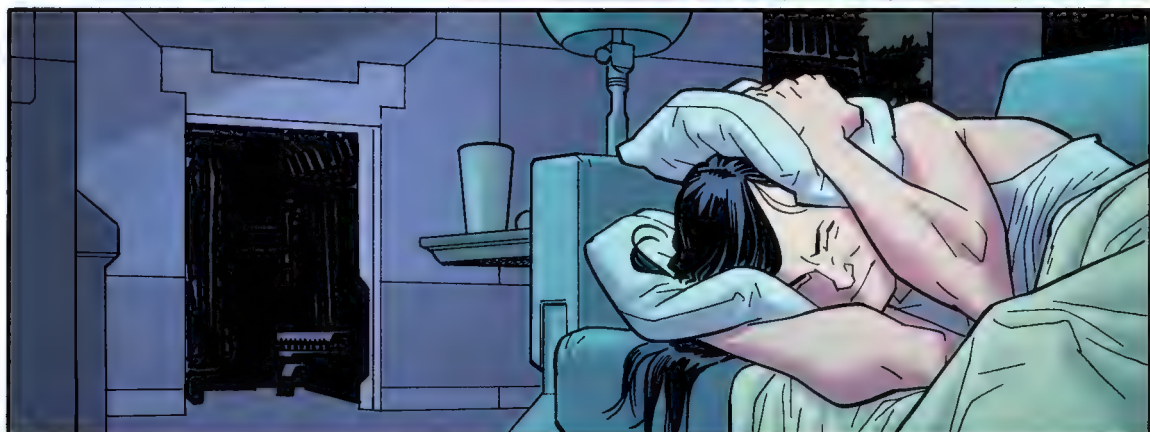
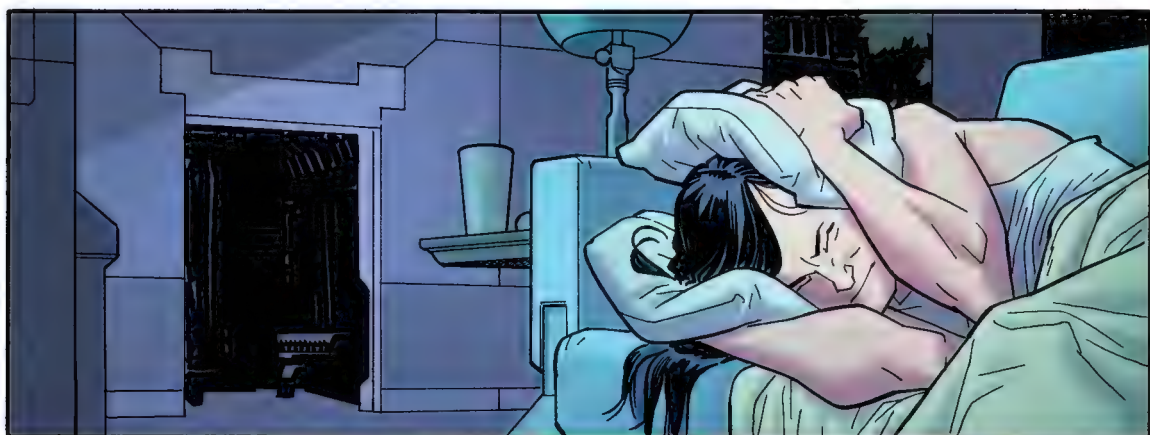


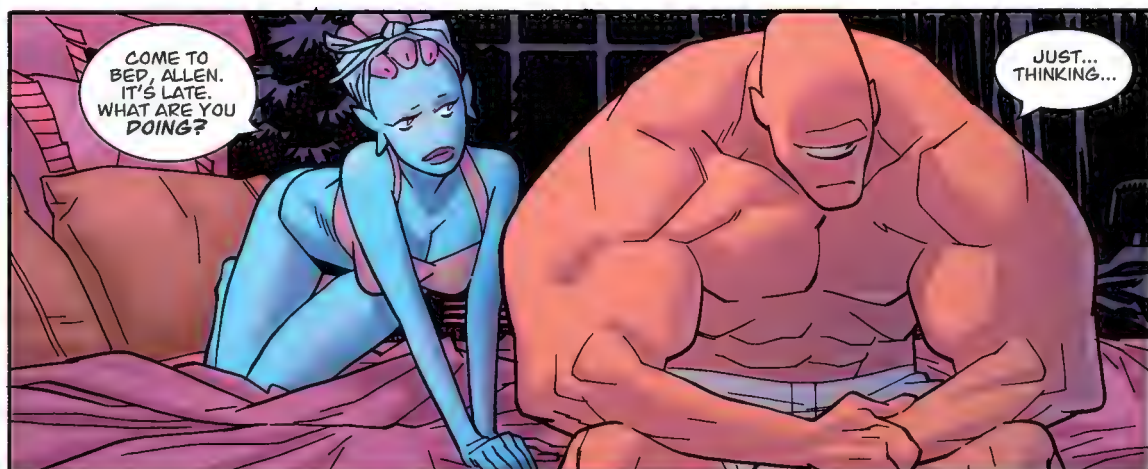
ANYTHING WILL BE BETTER THAN STAYING WITH ALLEN AND TELIA. I HEARD EVERYTHING AT THAT PLACE...

AND I MEAN... UGH... EVERYTHING.



WELL, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT HERE...





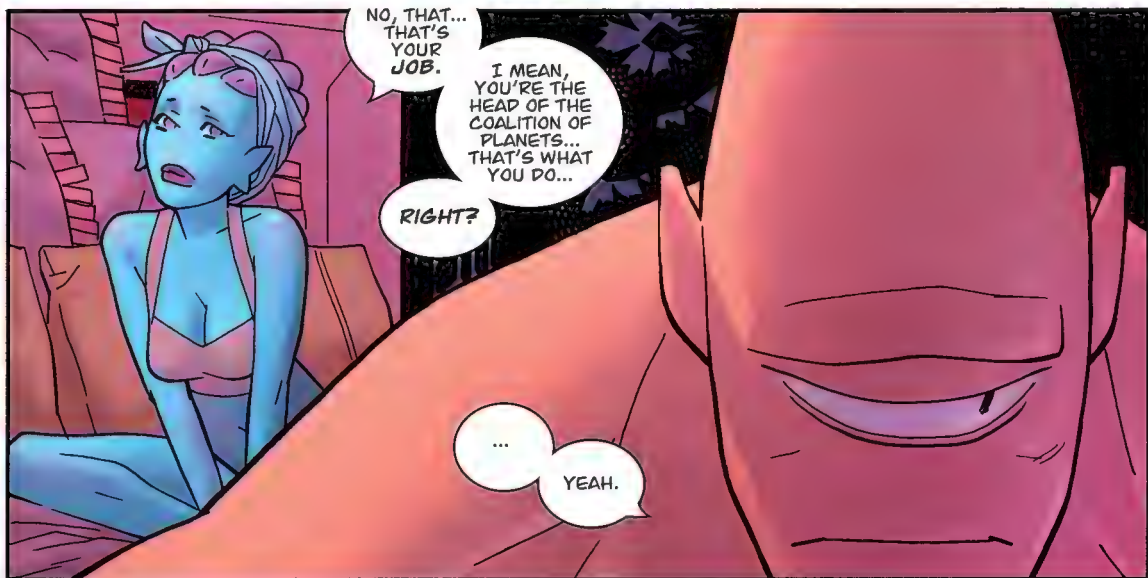
COME TO
BED, ALLEN.
IT'S LATE.
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

JUST...
THINKING...



TELIA, I... I HAVE
TO DO SOMETHING
HORRIBLE...
FOR THE SAKE OF
THE UNIVERSE.

DOES
THAT MAKE
ME A BAD
PERSON?



NO, THAT...
THAT'S
YOUR
JOB.

I MEAN,
YOU'RE THE
HEAD OF THE
COALITION OF
PLANETS...
THAT'S WHAT
YOU DO...

RIGHT?

...

YEAH.



SLEEP WELL?

YEAH.

ALLEN AND TELIA TAKE CARE OF YOU WHILE I WAS AWAY?

OOH, SORE SUBJECT. YOU'RE NO LONGER A CHILD. DULY NOTED.

DO YOU LIKE IT HERE?

SO, ARE WE GOING TO STAY HERE?

ON MY MOTHER'S PLANET--I'D BE AN ELDER, HELL--I'D BE MONARCH BY NOW. THEY "TOOK CARE OF ME" AS MUCH AS YOU WOULD NEED TO "TAKE CARE" OF AN ADULT.

I KIND OF DO. IT'S... BETTER THAN EARTH IN A LOT OF WAYS. PEOPLE SEEM MORE AWARE OF THE UNIVERSE AS A WHOLE. THE PEOPLE SEEM MUCH MORE ENLIGHTENED... I... NEVER CARED FOR EARTH ALL THAT MUCH.

OH? I DON'T KNOW THAT YOU SPENT ENOUGH TIME THERE. THEN, THERE'S A LOT TO LIKE.

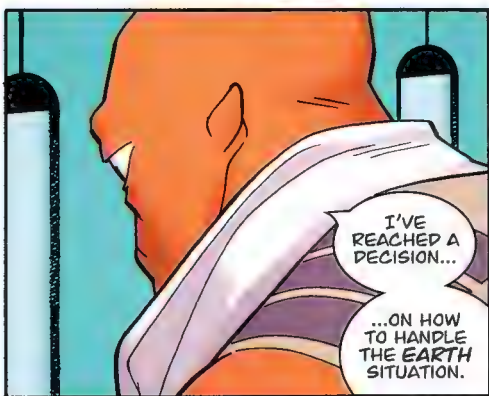
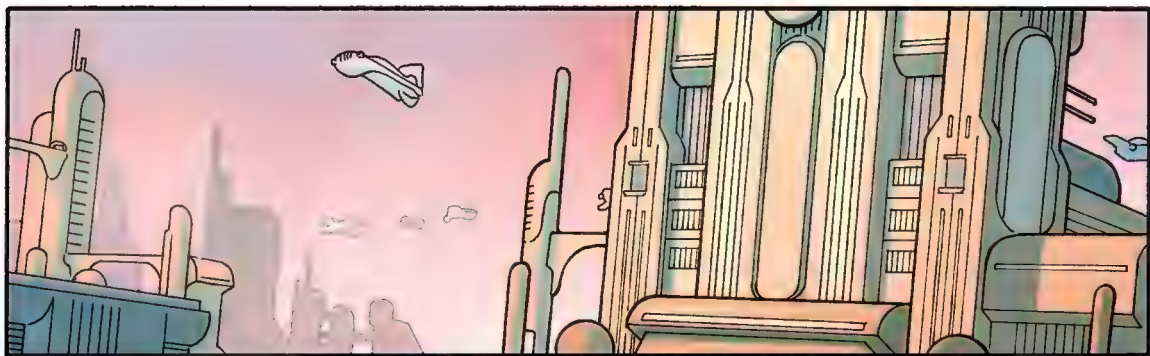
WHEN WAS THE LAST WAR THAT TOOK PLACE ON THIS PLANET--THAT ONLY INVOLVED PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET? THE FACT THAT THE PEOPLE ON EARTH STILL FIGHT EACH OTHER... IT'S JUST... STUPID.

I'D WAGER YOU AND MARK CARE FOR EARTH FAR MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE ON EARTH CARE FOR EACH OTHER.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S A BAD THING?

...

I DON'T KNOW...





BEFORE
HE DIED...
THAEPUS TOLD
YOU ABOUT
THE SCOURGE
VIRUS...
DIDN'T
HE?



DON'T.

IT'S NO
LONGER
THERE.



WHERE
IS IT?



I'M SORRY, THIS
IS GOING TO GET
UGLY, BUT I JUST
COULDN'T DO THIS
WITHOUT TELLING
YOU FIRST.

I VALUE
OUR
FRIENDSHIP
TOO MUCH.

IT'S BEING
LOADED ON A
SHIP, THAT I AM
PERSONALLY
GOING TO TRAVEL
TO EARTH IN... WHERE I
WILL THEN INTRODUCE
THE VIRUS INTO
THE PLANET'S
ATMOSPHERE.

I'M
SORRY.



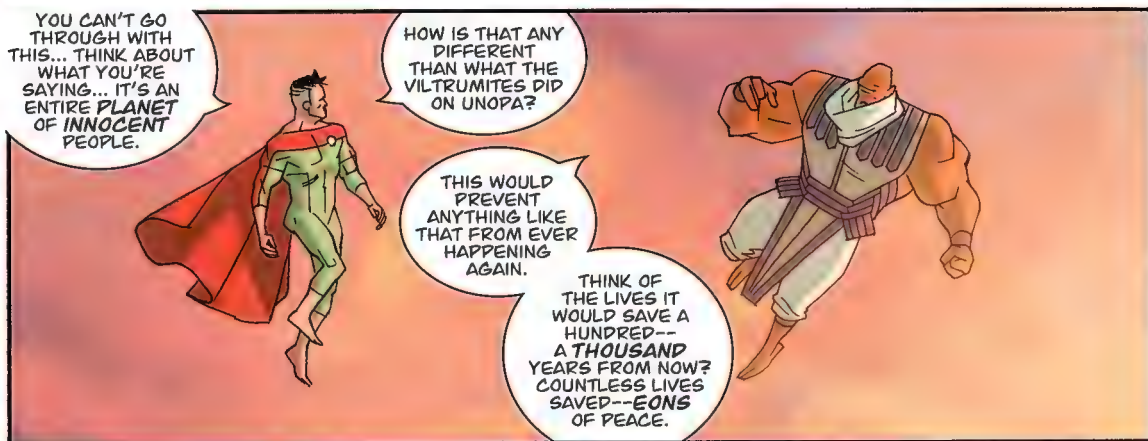


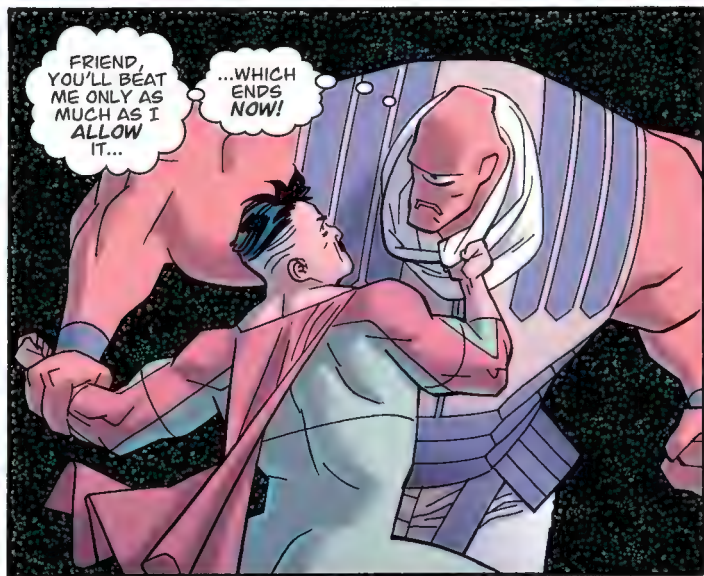
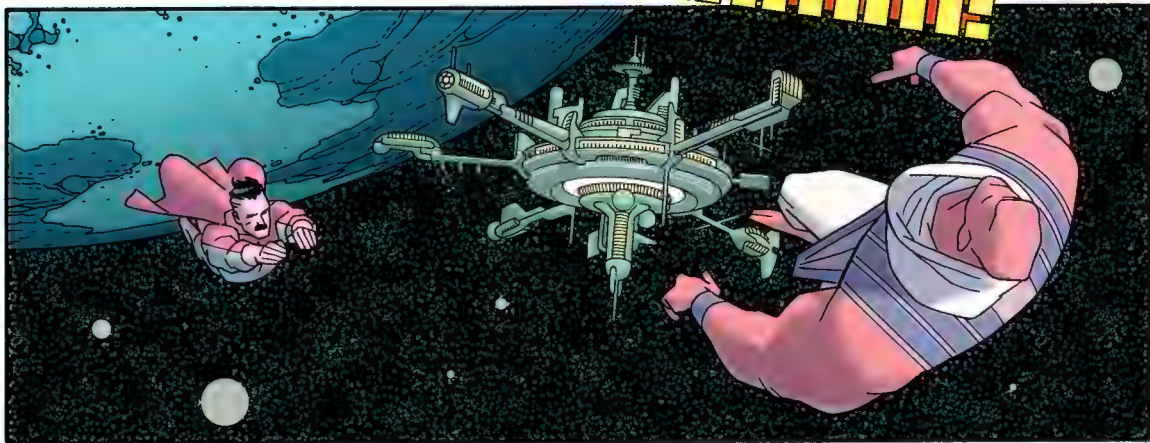
CHAPTER TWO













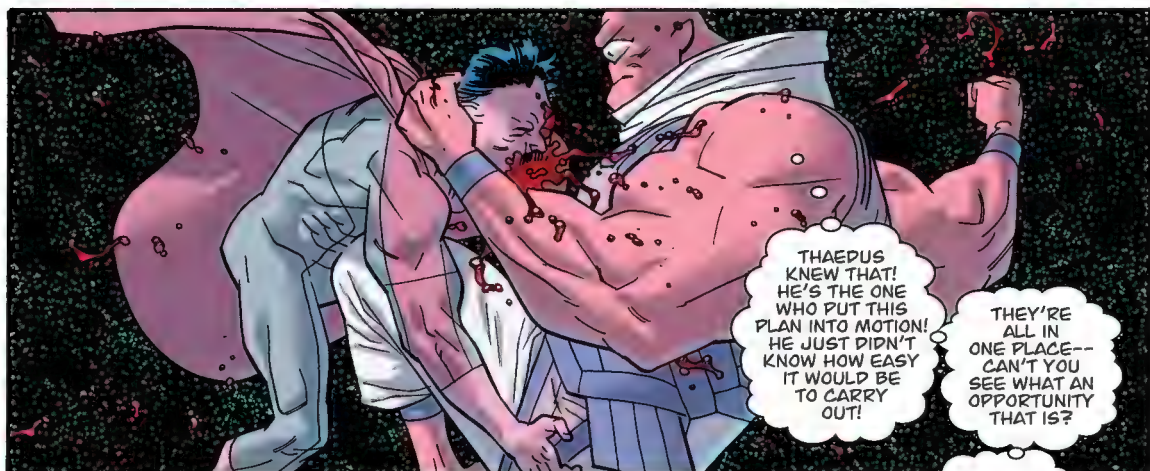
I KNEW
YOU'D MAKE
ME DO THIS! I
KNEW YOU'D
STAND
AGAINST
ME!

YOU CAN'T
SEE THINGS
THE WAY I DO.
YOUR TIME WITH
THE VILTRUMITE
EMPIRE HAS
SCARRED
YOU!



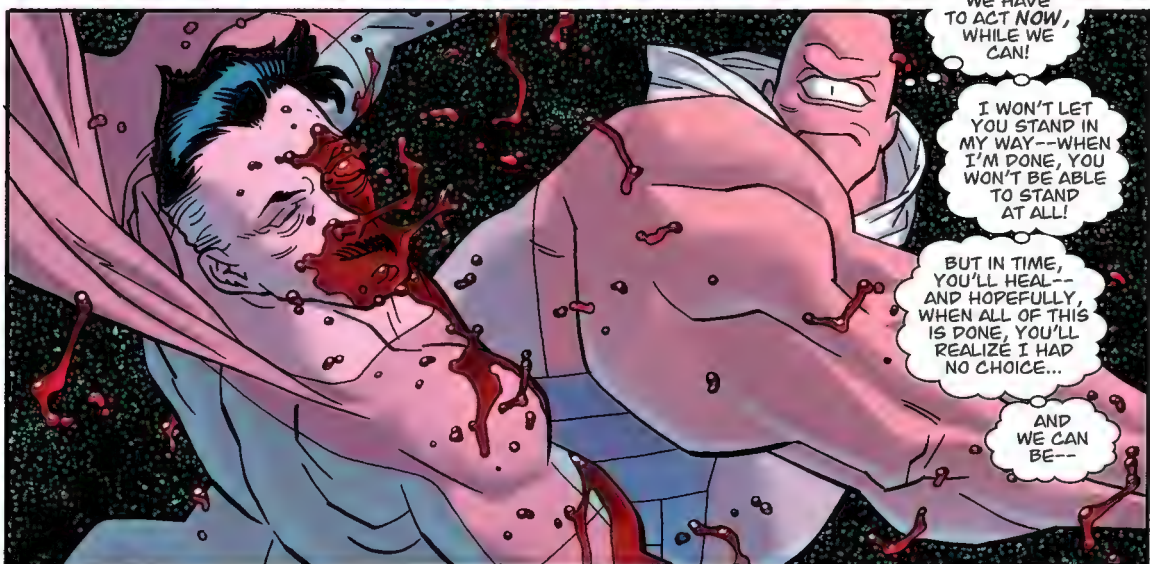
YOU FEEL
LIKE IF YOU TAKE
ONE STEP BACK
TOWARD THAT
LIFE--YOU WON'T
COME BACK!

BUT I LEAD
THE COALITION
NOW! I HAVE TO
PROTECT MILLIONS
OF LIVES! SOMETIMES
THESE KINDS OF
DECISIONS HAVE
TO BE MADE!



THAEPUS
KNEW THAT!
HE'S THE ONE
WHO PUT THIS
PLAN INTO MOTION!
HE JUST DIDN'T
KNOW HOW EASY
IT WOULD BE
TO CARRY
OUT!

THEY'RE
ALL IN
ONE PLACE--
CAN'T YOU
SEE WHAT AN
OPPORTUNITY
THAT IS?

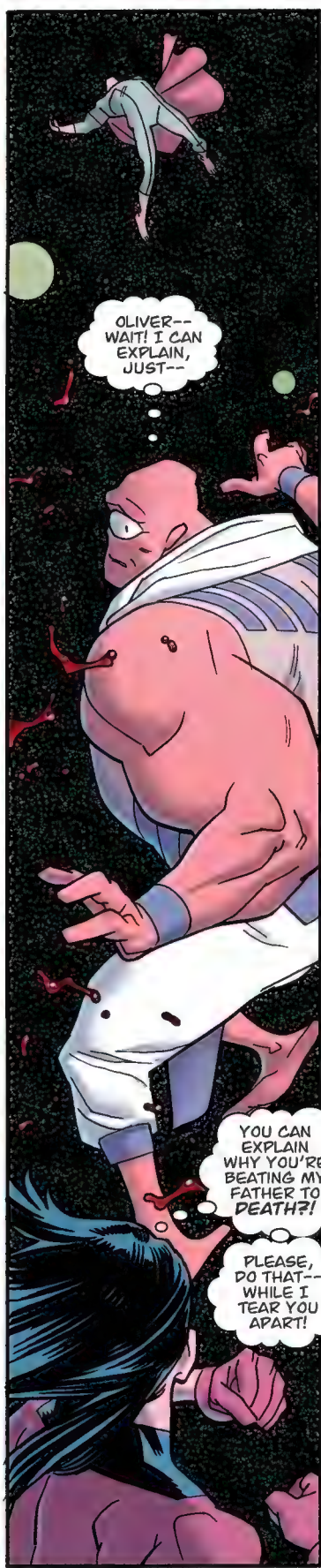


WE HAVE
TO ACT NOW,
WHILE WE
CAN!

I WON'T LET
YOU STAND IN
MY WAY--WHEN
I'M DONE, YOU
WON'T BE ABLE
TO STAND
AT ALL!

BUT IN TIME,
YOU'LL HEAL--
AND HOPEFULLY,
WHEN ALL OF THIS
IS DONE, YOU'LL
REALIZE I HAD
NO CHOICE...

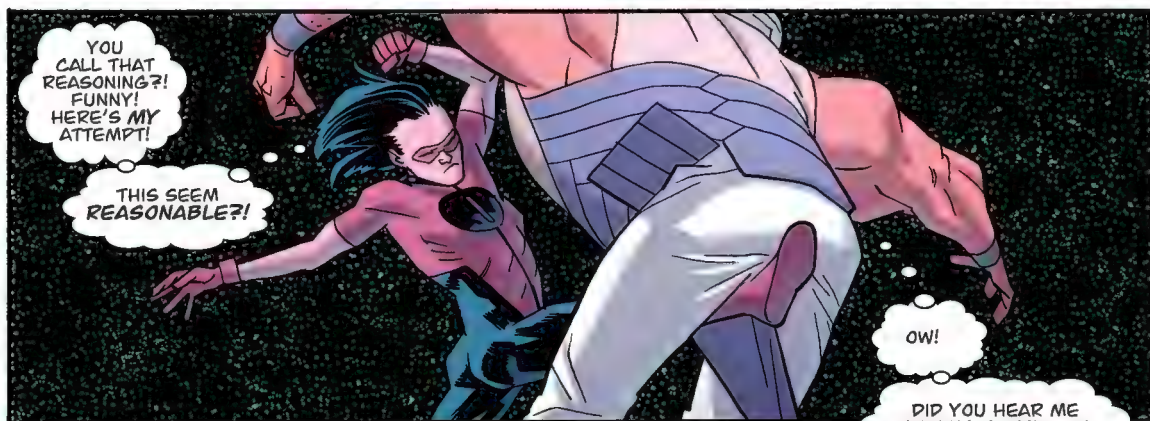
AND
WE CAN
BE--





SLOW DOWN
THERE, KIDDO.
JUST GIVE ME
A MINUTE--
HEAR ME
OUT.

I TRIED
REASONING
WITH YOUR
DAD AND--

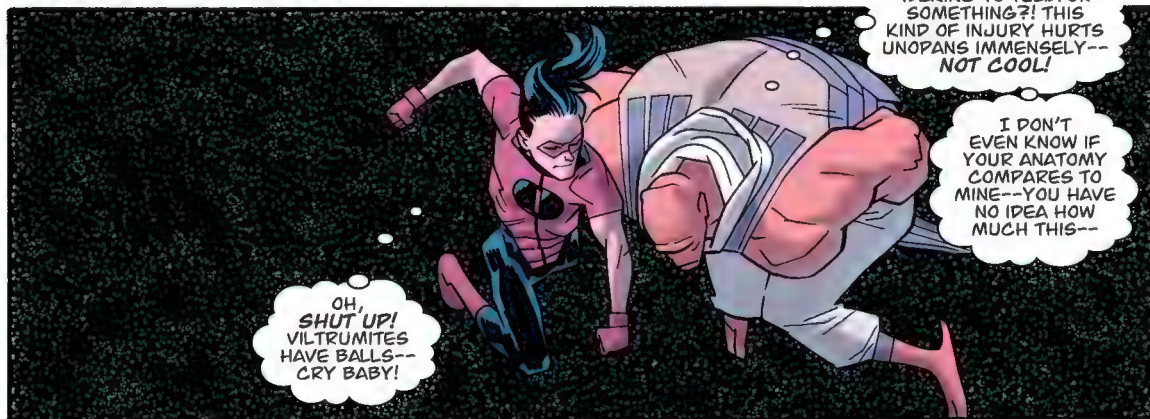


YOU
CALL THAT
REASONING?!
FUNNY!
HERE'S MY
ATTEMPT!

THIS SEEM
REASONABLE?!

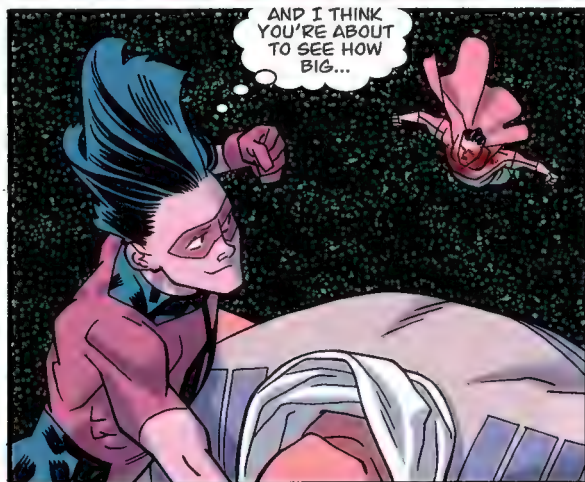
OW!

DID YOU HEAR ME
TALKING TO TELIA OR
SOMETHING?! THIS
KIND OF INJURY HURTS
UNOPANS IMMENSELY--
NOT COOL!

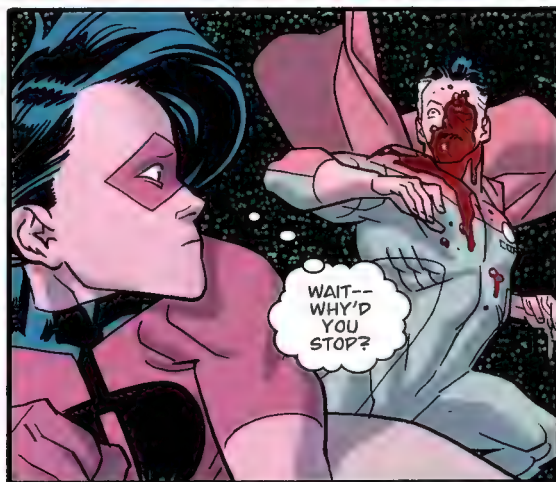


OH,
SHUT UP!
VILTRUMITES
HAVE BALLS--
CRY BABY!

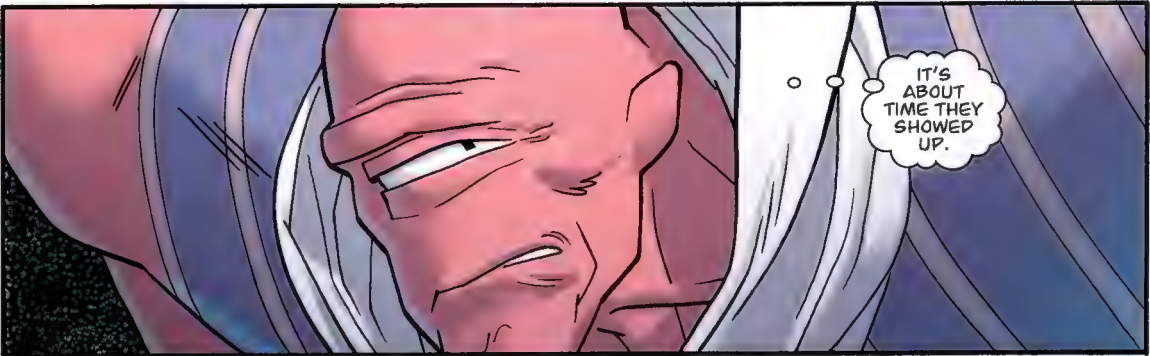
I DON'T
EVEN KNOW IF
YOUR ANATOMY
COMPARES TO
MINE--YOU HAVE
NO IDEA HOW
MUCH THIS--



AND I THINK
YOU'RE ABOUT
TO SEE HOW
BIG...

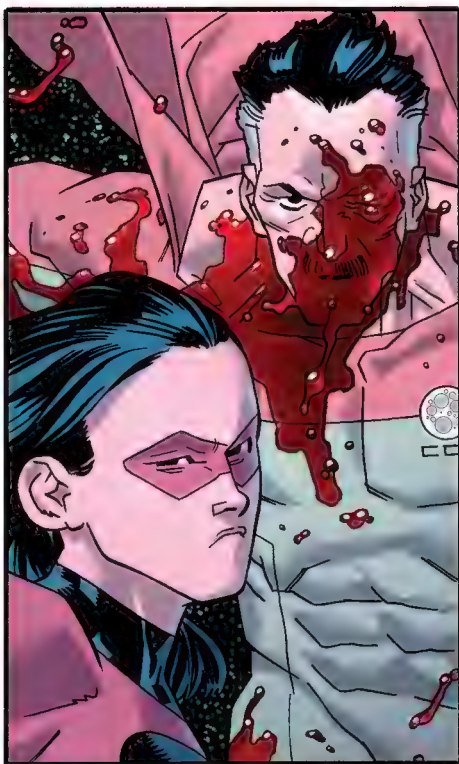


WAIT--
WHY'D
YOU
STOP?





OKAY...



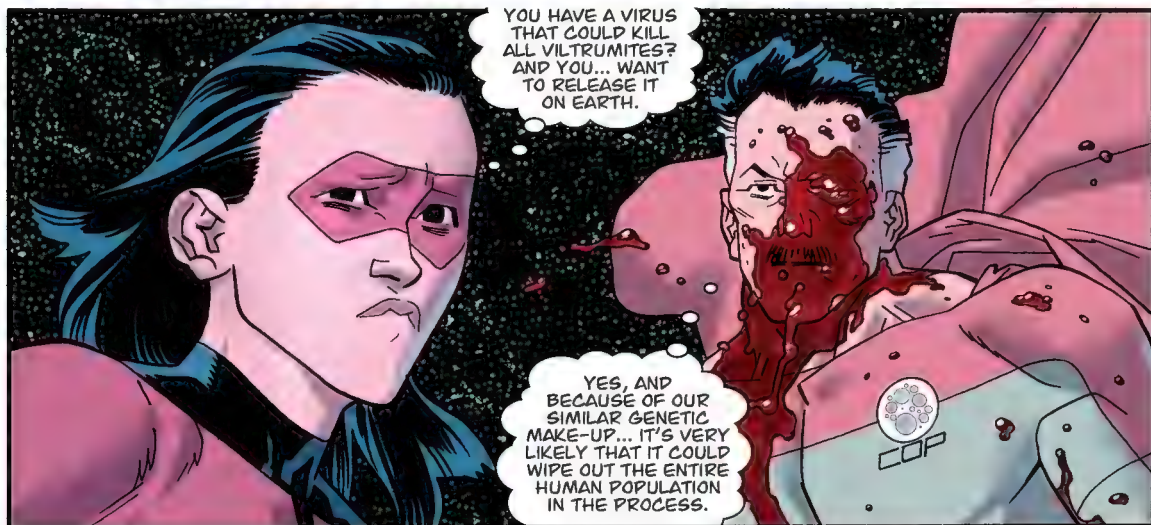
LET ME TRY THIS AGAIN WHILE THE THREAT OF MY SOLDIERS HAS YOU WILLING TO LISTEN.



IF I RELEASE THE SCOURGE VIRUS ON EARTH--IT'S NOT ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT CERTAIN THAT IT WILL AFFECT THE HUMAN POPULATION THERE. IT'S POSSIBLE... BUT THAT'S IT.

I'M SORRY, BUT--THAT'S A RISK WORTH TAKING. IF THAT VIRUS CAN WIPE OUT THE VILTRUMITES ONCE AND FOR ALL--RID THE UNIVERSE OF THAT THREAT... I HAVE TO DO IT.

IF YOU THINK ABOUT THIS... REALLY CONSIDER WHAT IS AT STAKE HERE, YOU'LL SEE THAT I'M RIGHT.



YOU HAVE A VIRUS THAT COULD KILL ALL VILTRUMITES? AND YOU... WANT TO RELEASE IT ON EARTH.

YES, AND BECAUSE OF OUR SIMILAR GENETIC MAKE-UP... IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT IT COULD WIPE OUT THE ENTIRE HUMAN POPULATION IN THE PROCESS.



HE'S
RIGHT.

LET
HIM DO
IT.

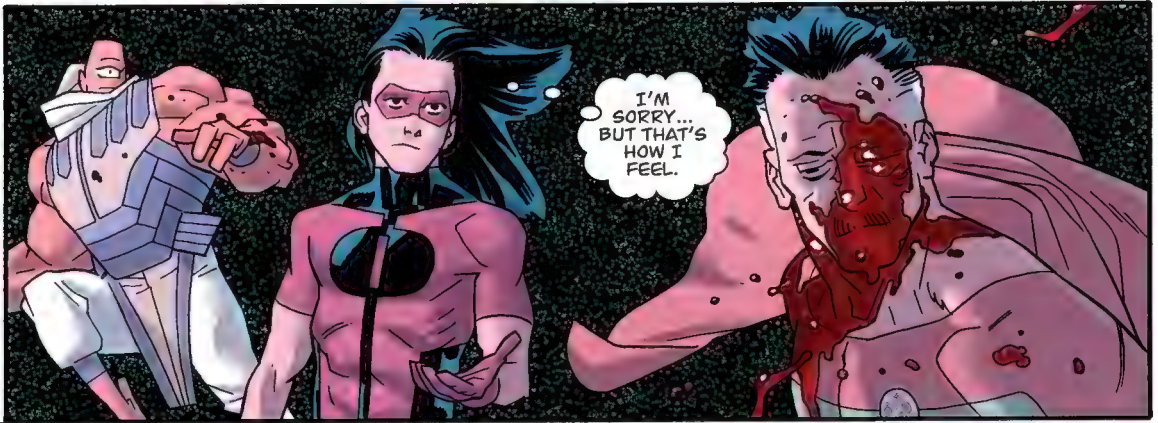


OLIVER?

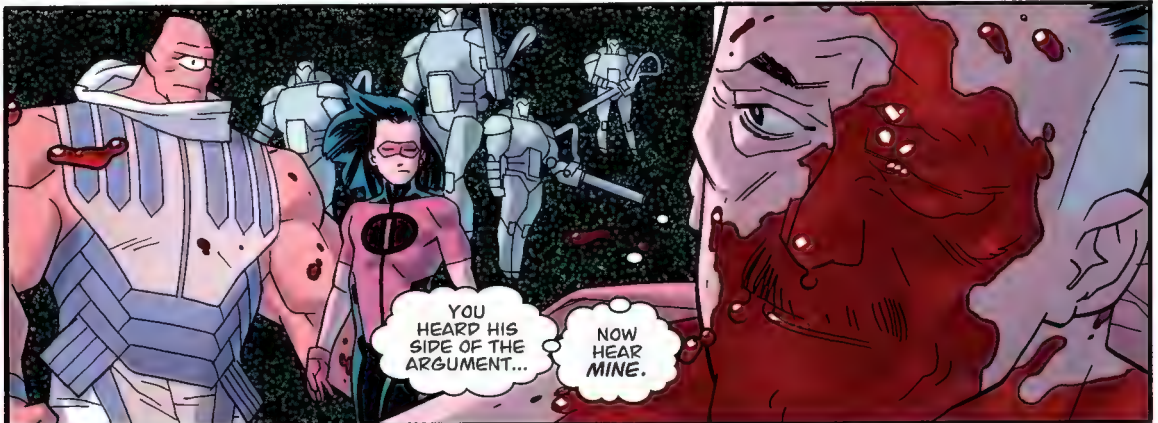


I'M SURE HE'D
WARN MARK--AND
LET HIM TAKE EVE
AND A FEW OTHER
PEOPLE HE LIKED
OFF-PLANET.

MOM'S
ALREADY HERE.
THERE'S REALLY
NO ONE ELSE I
CARE ABOUT.

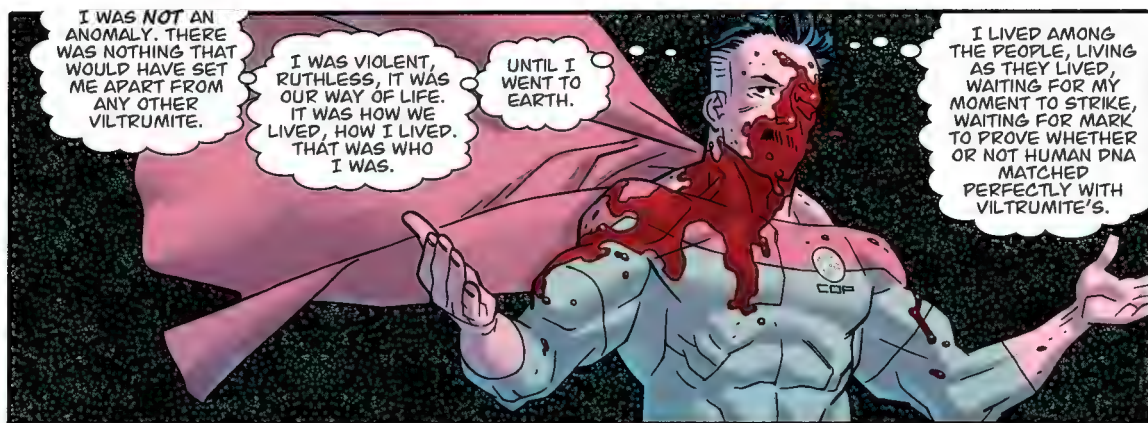


I'M
SORRY...
BUT THAT'S
HOW I
FEEL.



YOU
HEARD HIS
SIDE OF THE
ARGUMENT...

NOW
HEAR
MINE.



I WAS NOT AN ANOMALY. THERE WAS NOTHING THAT WOULD HAVE SET ME APART FROM ANY OTHER VILTRUMITE.

I WAS VIOLENT, RUTHLESS, IT WAS OUR WAY OF LIFE. IT WAS HOW WE LIVED, HOW I LIVED. THAT WAS WHO I WAS.

UNTIL I WENT TO EARTH.

I LIVED AMONG THE PEOPLE, LIVING AS THEY LIVED, WAITING FOR MY MOMENT TO STRIKE, WAITING FOR MARK TO PROVE WHETHER OR NOT HUMAN DNA MATCHED PERFECTLY WITH VILTRUMITE'S.

THAT TIME CHANGED ME. I HARDLY EVEN REALIZED IT AT THE TIME. THE AFFECTION SHOWN FOR THOSE AROUND THEM, THOSE THEY... LOVE. I PRETENDED... UNTIL I WASN'T PRETENDING ANYMORE.

WHEN THE TIME CAME TO COMPLETE MY MISSION, I COULDN'T DO IT... I WAS DIFFERENT. EARTH HAD CHANGED ME.

NOW WHAT REMAINS OF MY PEOPLE ARE EXISTING ON EARTH, AS I DID, AND FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED TO ME... WILL HAPPEN TO ALL OF THEM.



AND WHAT IF THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN? WE WILL HAVE SQUANDERED OUR ONLY CHANCE TO RID OURSELVES OF THIS THREAT TO OUR ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT YOUR PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF? OUR EFFORTS TO DESTROY THEM IN THE RECENT WAR?

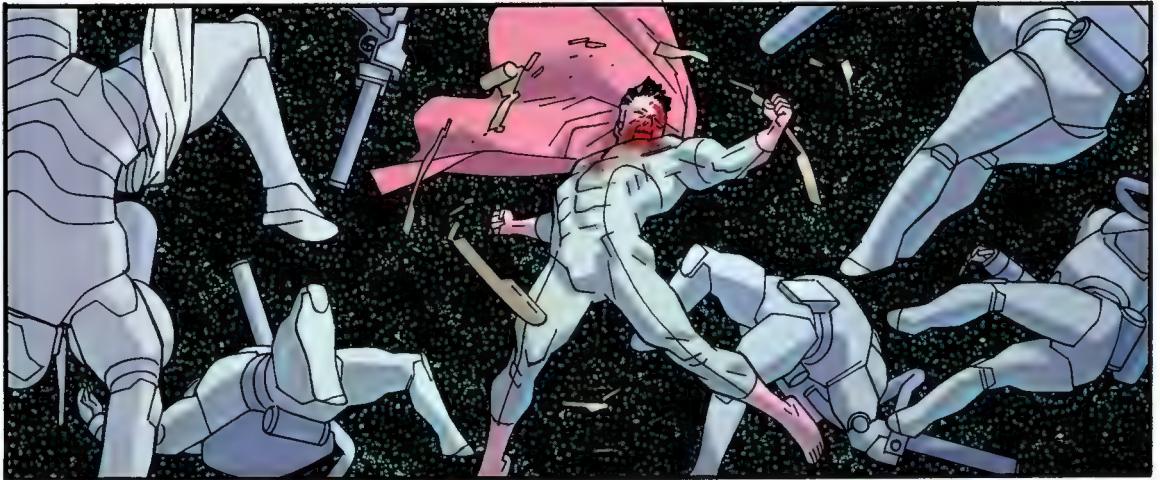
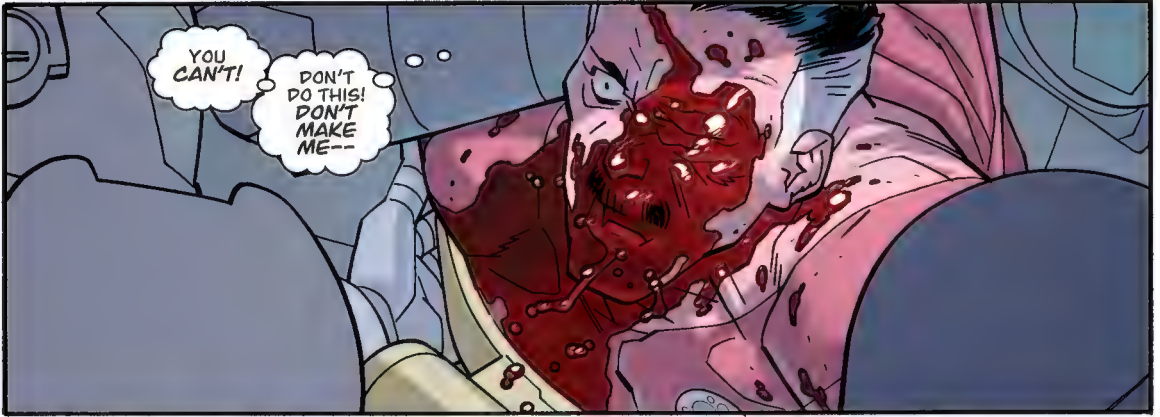
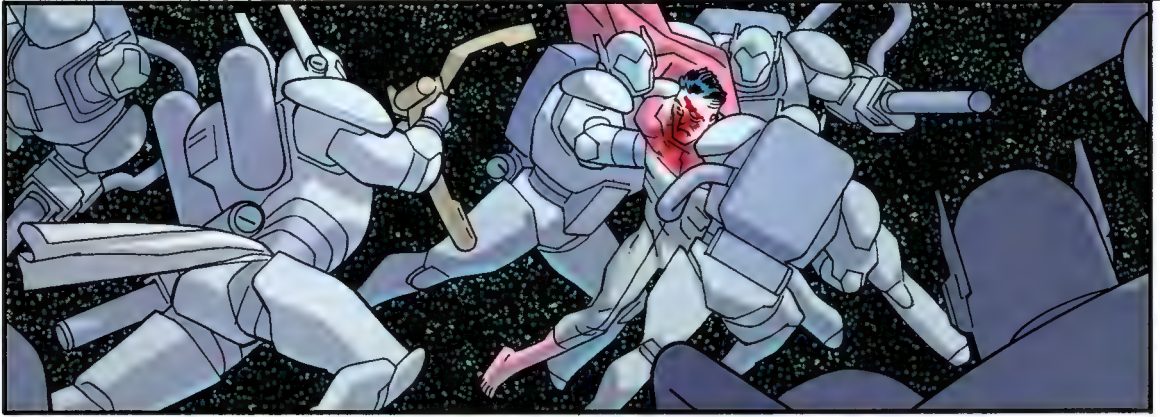
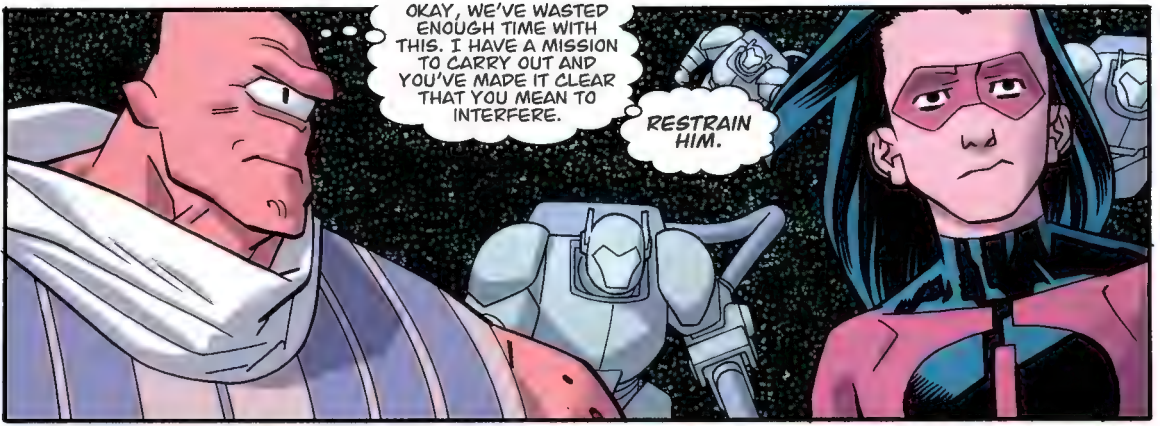
I'M CONFUSED, MY FRIEND. ARE YOU TRYING TO SAVE THE INNOCENT PEOPLE OF EARTH... OR YOUR VILTRUMITE BRETHREN?

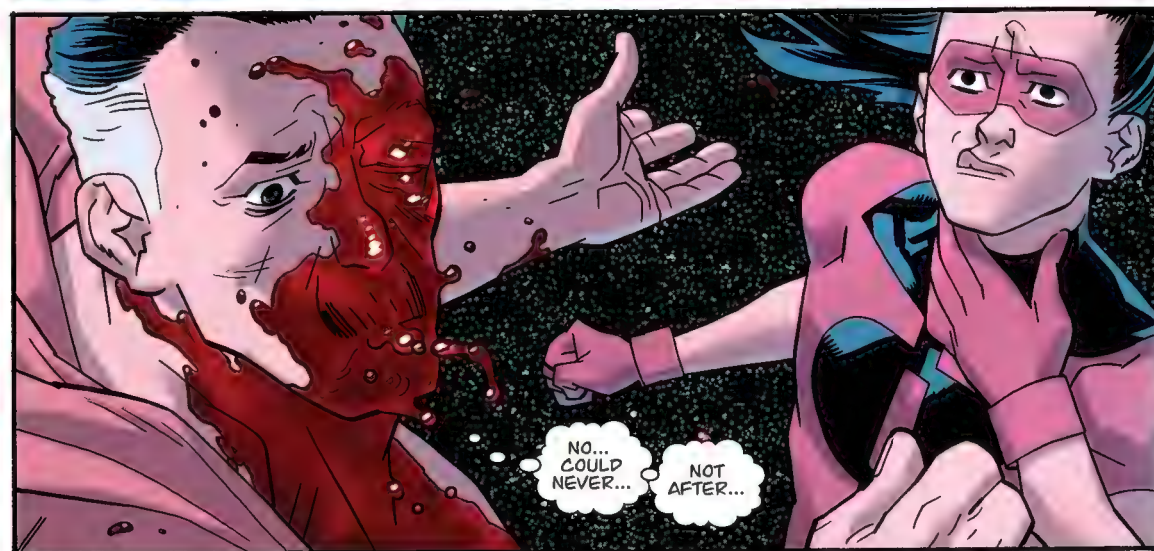
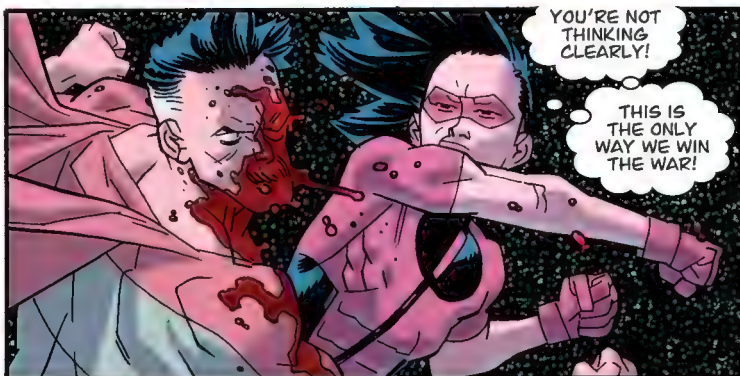
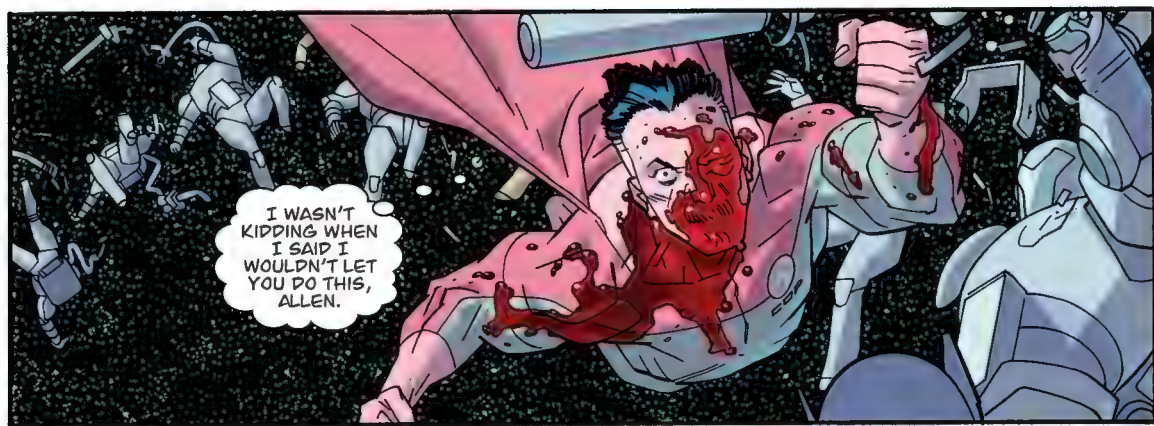


WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF EARTH IS TRUE OF MY MOTHER, AND VERY FEW OTHERS. I HAVE READ THE ENTIRETY OF THEIR WRITTEN HISTORY... MY OPINION OF THEM DIFFERS FROM YOURS... SUBSTANTIALLY.

THEY'RE ASSHOLES. THEY CARE ONLY FOR TAKING WHAT THEY DON'T HAVE FROM THOSE THAT DO. THEY'RE A SMALL AND PETTY PEOPLE WHO ARE NEARLY AS ADDICTED TO VIOLENCE AS OUR RACE IS.

YOU BELIEVE VILTRUMITES WILL LEARN FROM THEM, AND BE MADE BETTER BY IT. I'M SORRY, FATHER... BUT... YOU'RE WRONG.





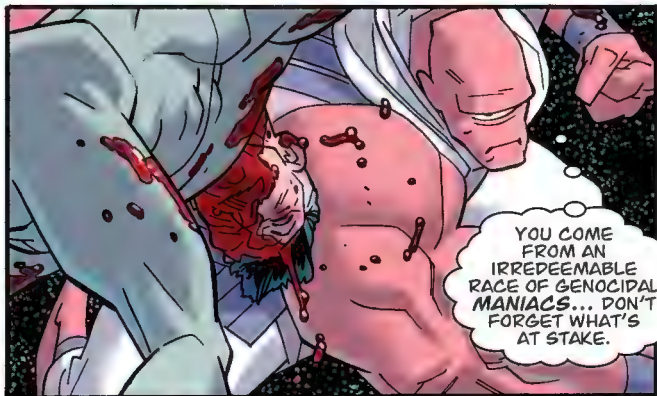


WELL, THAT WAS TOUCHING... YOU HAVE CHANGED.

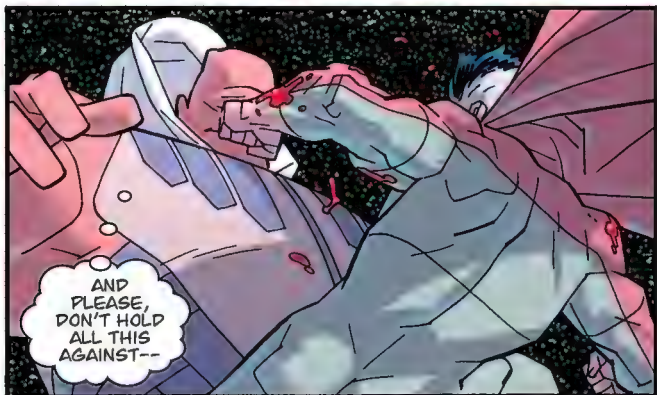
STILL, THOUGH... I'M CONVINCED YOU'RE AN ANOMALY. I JUST CAN'T SEE GRAND REGENT THRAGG MARRYING A NICE LITTLE HUMAN WOMAN AND SETTLING DOWN.



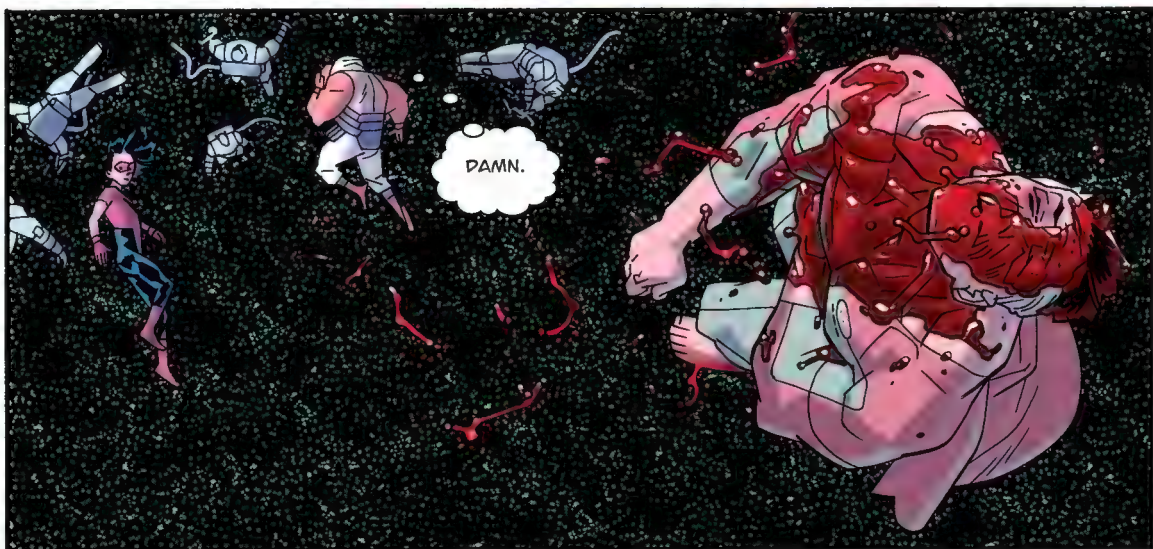
YOU'RE SPECIAL. DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT.



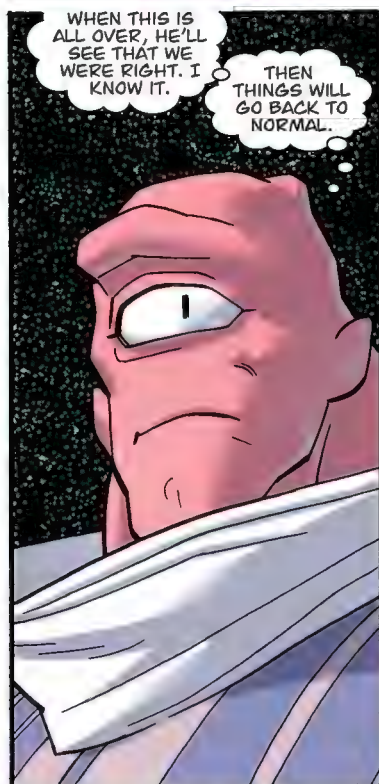
YOU COME FROM AN IRREPEEMABLE RACE OF GENOCIDAL MANIACS... DON'T FORGET WHAT'S AT STAKE.

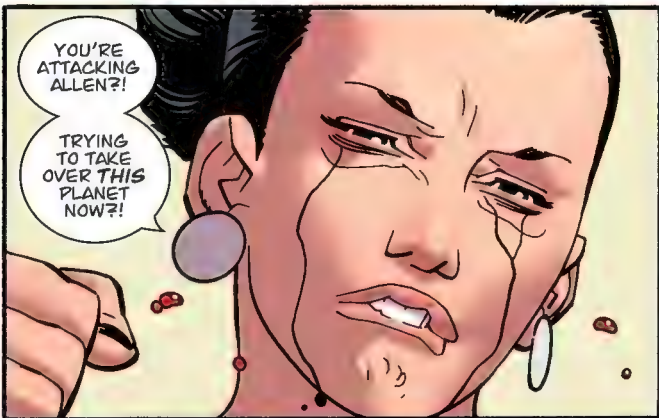
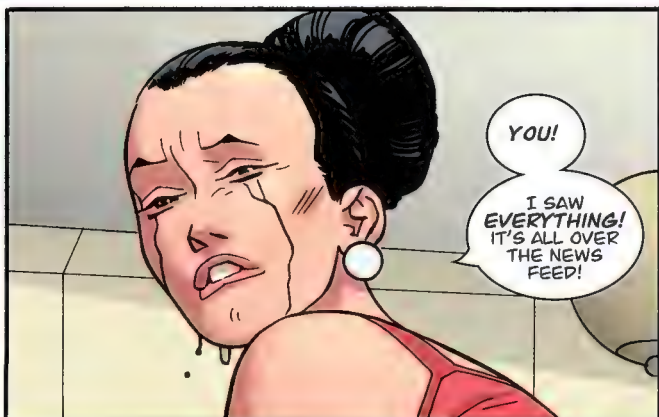
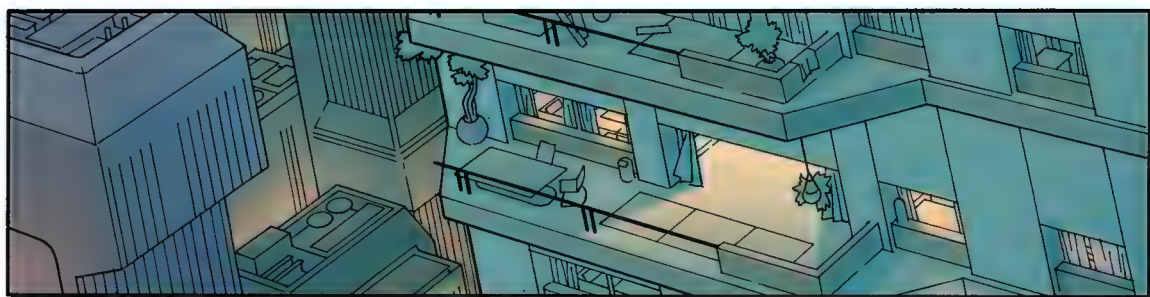


AND PLEASE, DON'T HOLD ALL THIS AGAINST--



DAMN.









WE'VE
GOT TO
GET TO
EARTH...

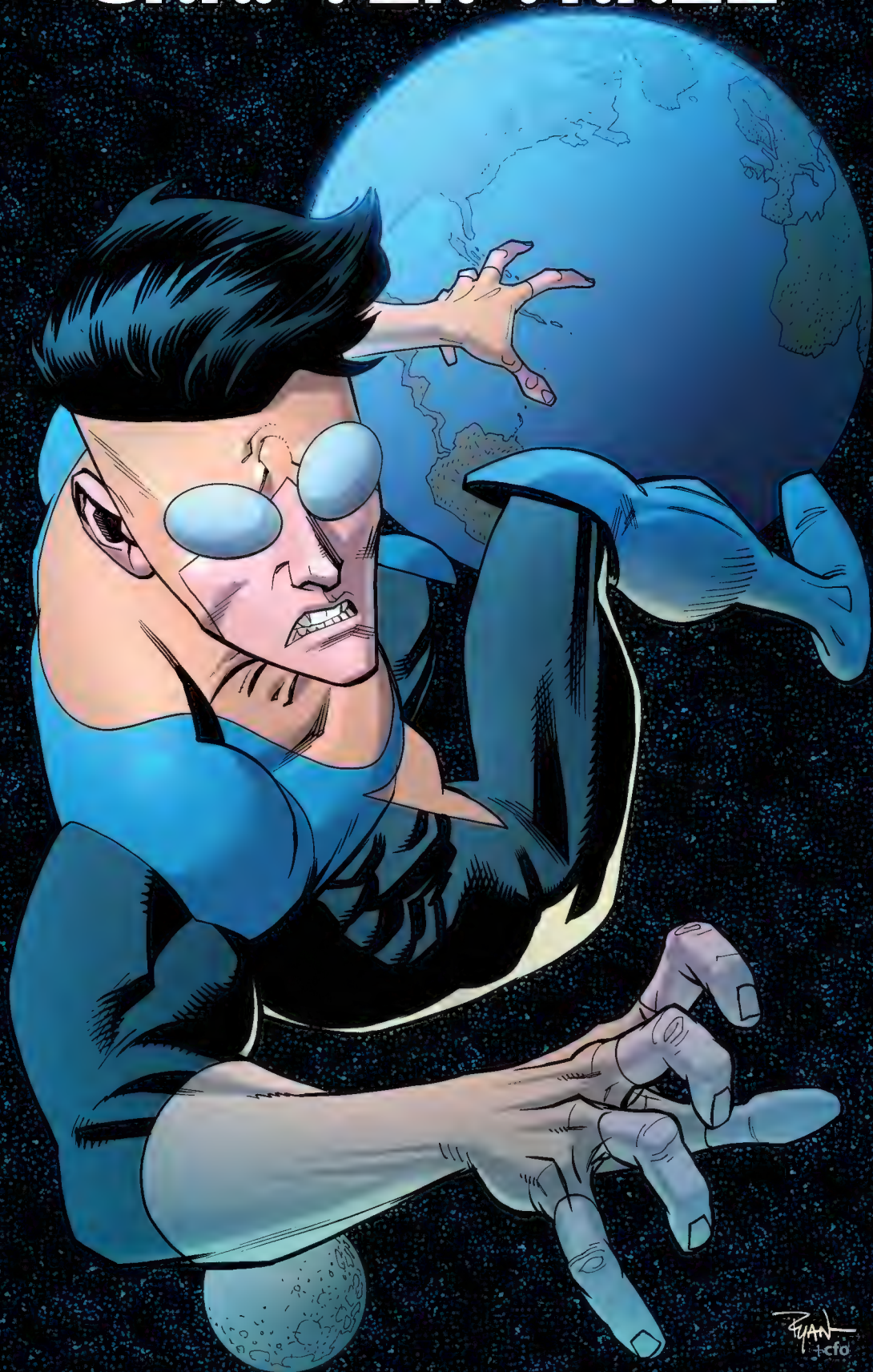
WE'VE
GOT TO...

WE...





CHAPTER THREE



Ryan
+cfo



MY FIRST
ATTEMPT TO RULE
THIS DIMENSION
WAS A HALF-HEARTED
ATTEMPT, **DOOMED**
TO FAIL FROM
THE VERY
START.*

MY WORLD
WAS DYING, ITS
ENERGY DEPLETED,
I WAS DESPERATE
AND HUNGRY--I
ENTERED YOUR
WORLD IN MY
DEPLETED FORM,
TRYING IN VAIN
TO OVERTAKE
YOU.

I UNDERESTIMATED
THE RESISTANCE THIS
WORLD WOULD HAVE
TO OFFER... BUT NOT
THIS TIME.


THIS TIME
I ENTERED YOUR
WORLD UNDETECTED,
SPENT MONTHS
RESTORING MYSELF,
DRAINING YOUR WORLD
OF ENERGY WITHOUT
DETECTION--WAITING
FOR THE PERFECT
MOMENT TO
STRIKE...

*SEE INVINCIBLE 27.



AND
THAT
TIME...

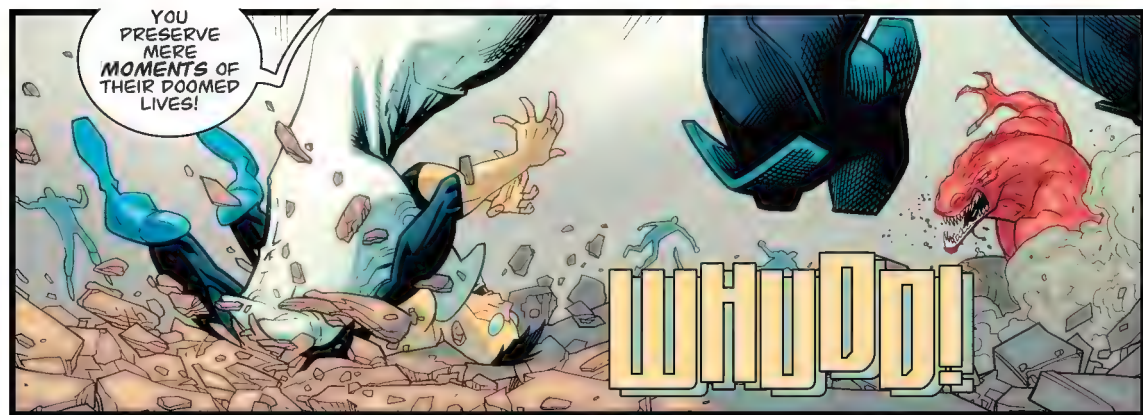
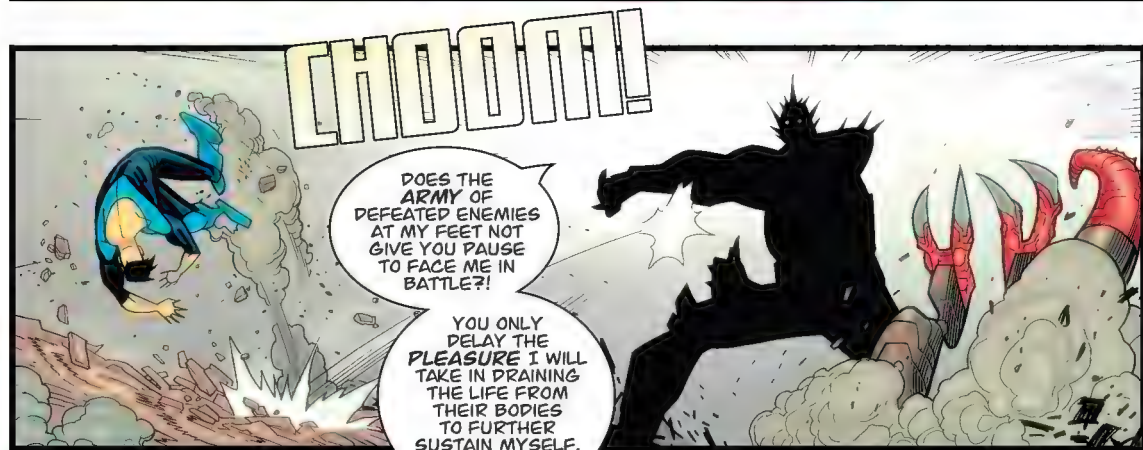
...HAS
PASSED.



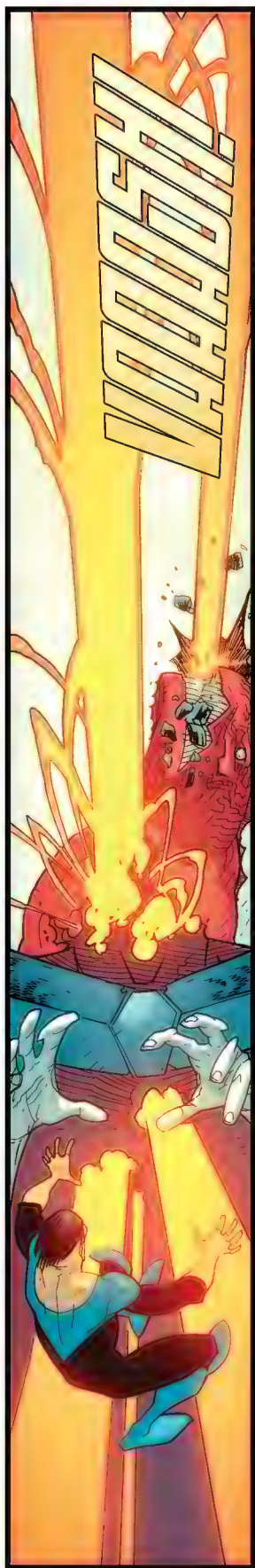
HOW LONG DID YOU WAIT TO TELL ME ABOUT THIS?! THESE ARE MY **FRIENDS!** THEY COULD HAVE BEEN **KILLED!!** SOME OF THEM MIGHT ALREADY BE DEAD!

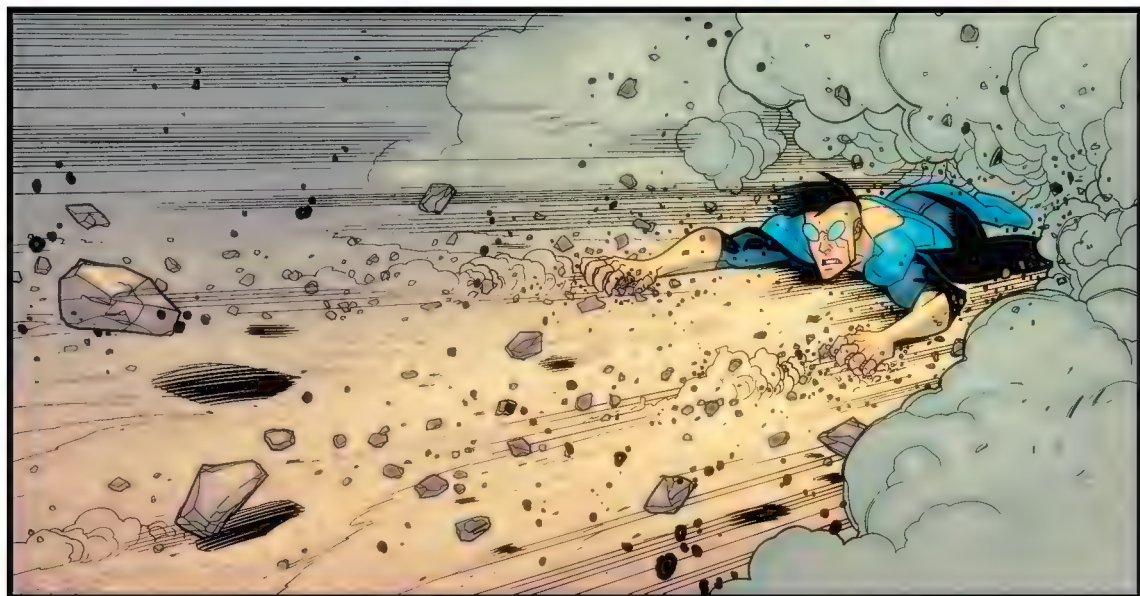
THOSE IRRIGATION CHANNELS YOU WERE DIGGING WERE FAR MORE IMPORTANT IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS.

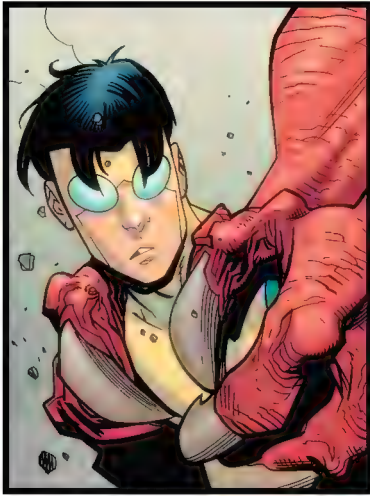
I ONLY ALERTED YOU WHEN IT WAS CLEAR WE'D BE NEEDED.

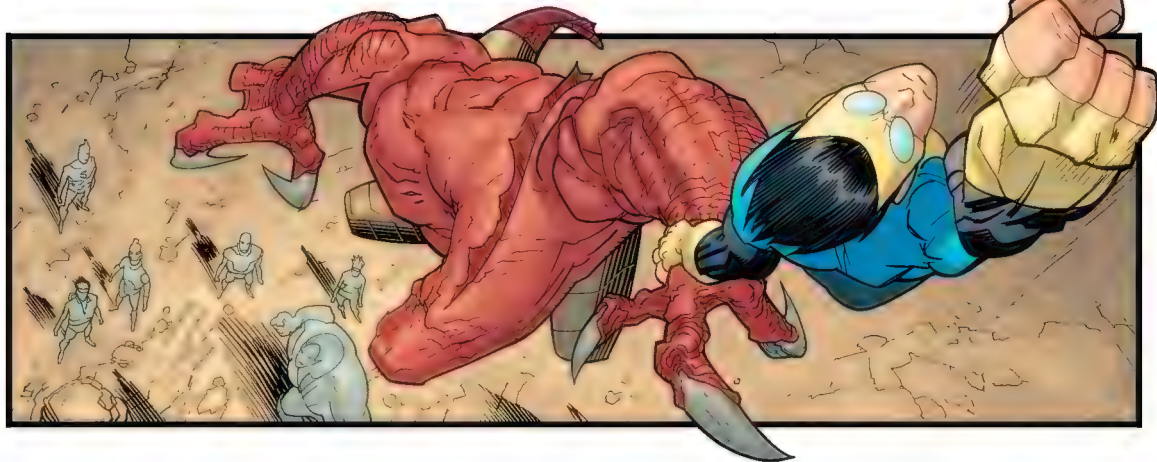
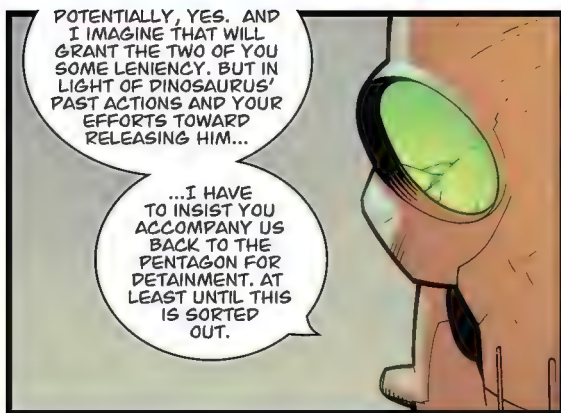
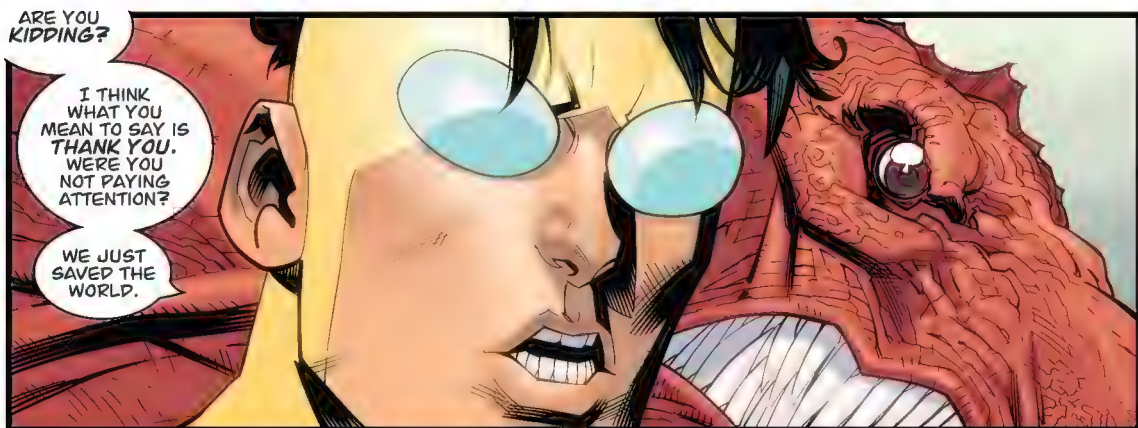
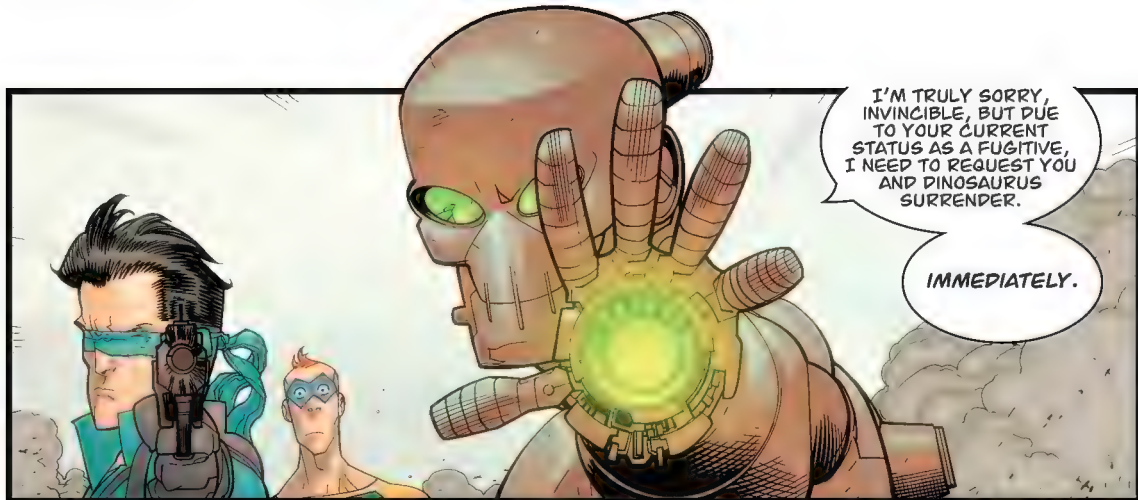


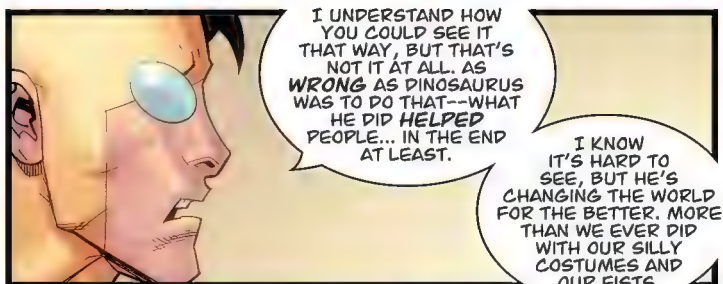
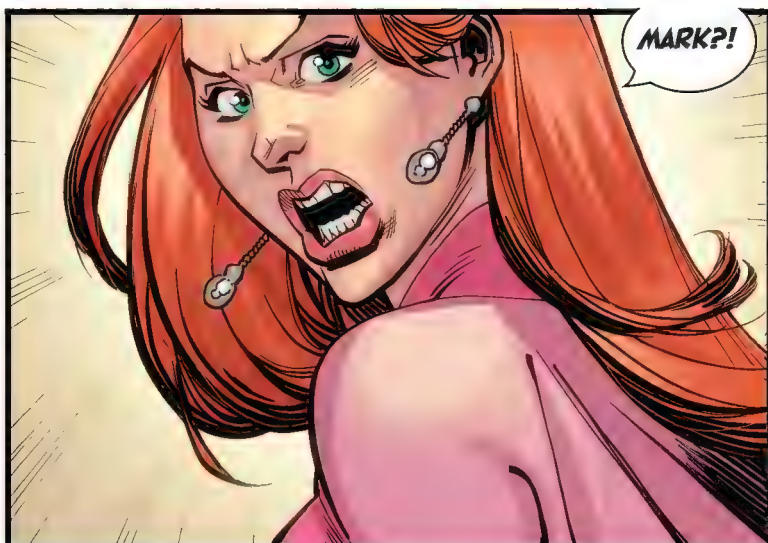
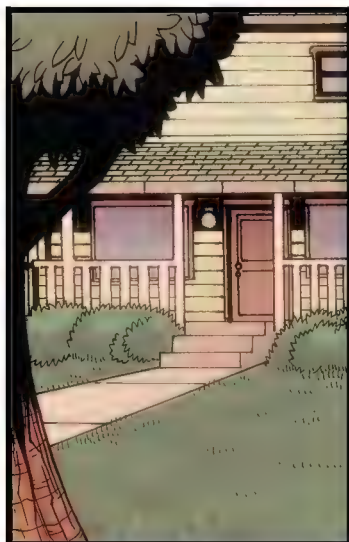
УОМПИ!

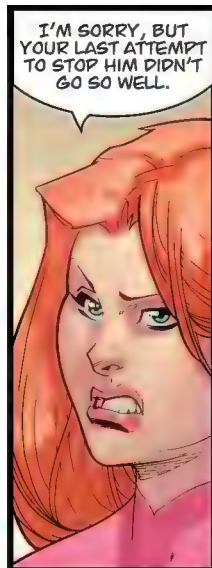
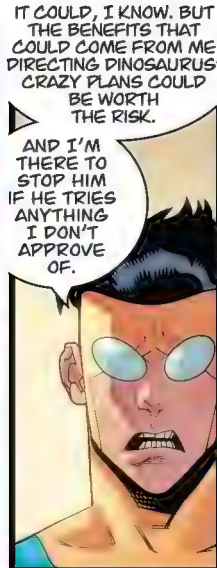
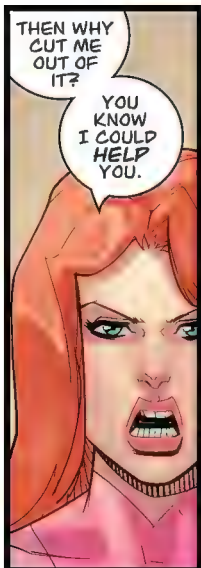


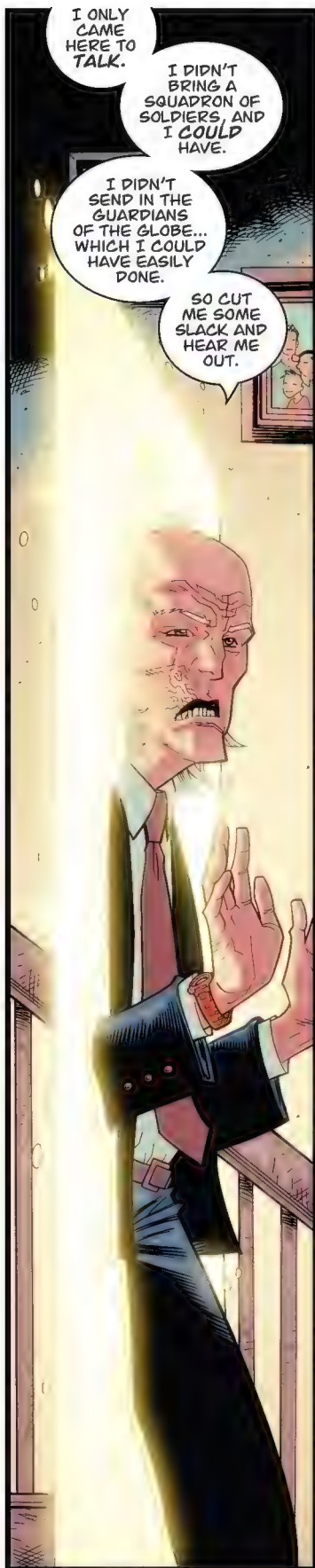












I ONLY
CAME
HERE TO
TALK.

I DIDN'T
BRING A
SQUADRON OF
SOLDIERS, AND
I **COULD**
HAVE.

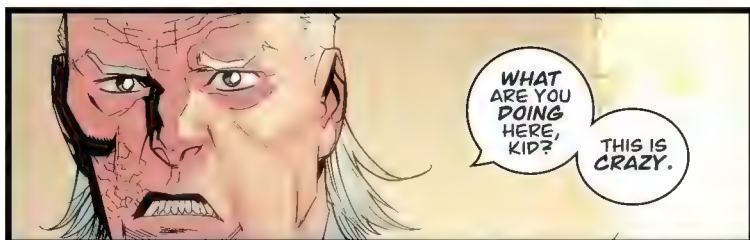
I DIDN'T
SEND IN THE
GUARDIANS
OF THE GLOBE...
WHICH I COULD
HAVE EASILY
DONE.

SO CUT
ME SOME
SLACK AND
HEAR ME
OUT.



I DON'T HAVE DINOSAURUS
WITH ME. YOU WOULDN'T
OUTRIGHT ATTACK ME
UNLESS YOU KNEW YOU
COULD GET HIM,
TOO.

I FIGURED
YOU WERE
MONITORING
THE PLACE. I
ACTUALLY WANT
TO TALK TO
YOU.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE,
KID?

THIS IS
CRAZY.

YOU SAW THAT SOLAR PANEL
ARRAY... YOU **BUILT** IT. YOU
CAN'T ARGUE THAT IT WON'T
HELP PEOPLE. IT'S GOING
TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES,
AND HELP THE WHOLE
PLANET... AND IT COULD
LEAD TO MORE
LIKE IT.

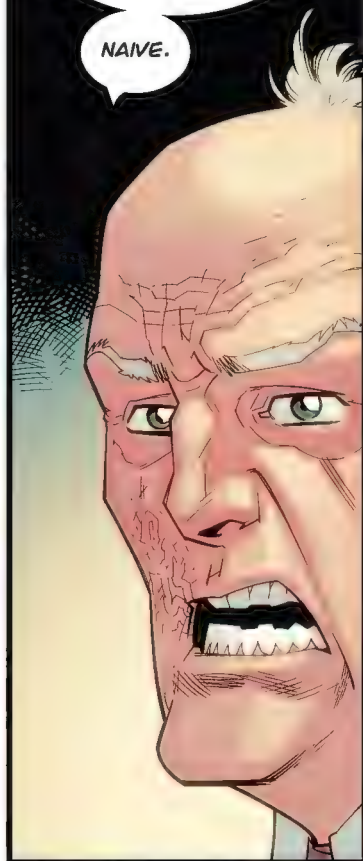
DINOSAURUS
DID THAT. HE DID
A HORRIBLE,
UNFORGIVABLE THING
TO ACCOMPLISH IT--
BUT HIS REASONING
WAS **SOUND**.

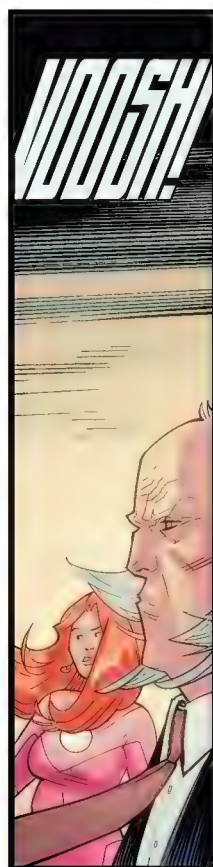
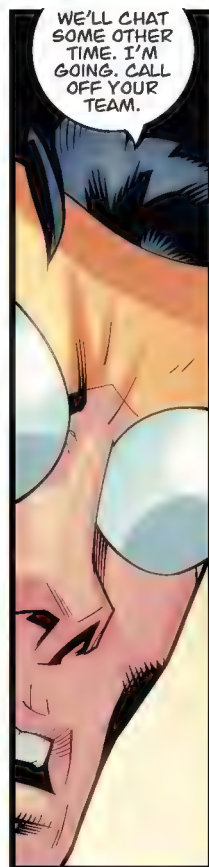
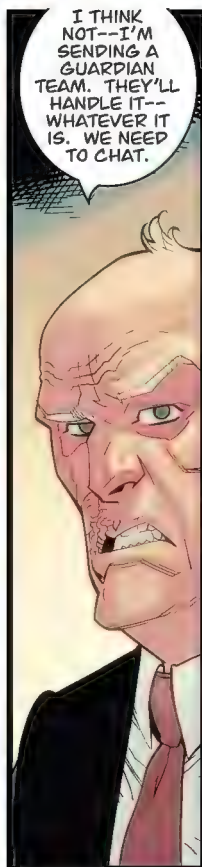
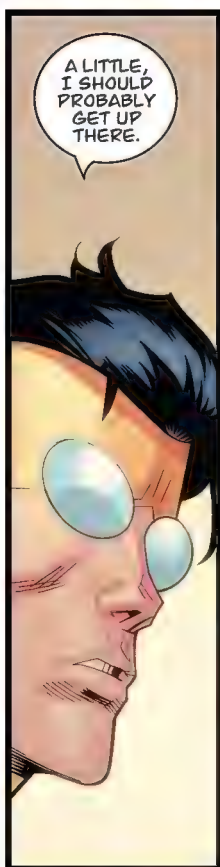
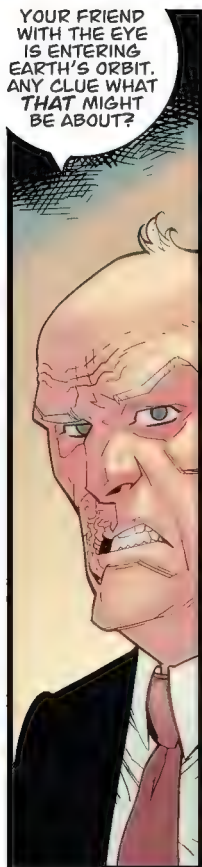
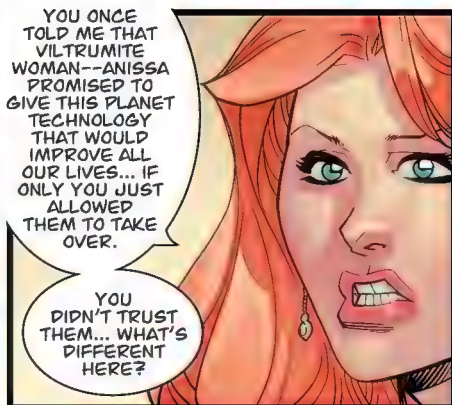
I CAN
GUIDE HIM,
PREVENT HIM
FROM CARRYING
OUT HIS PLANS IN A
WAY THAT HURTS
PEOPLE... AND HE
CAN HELP ME DO
THINGS THAT
ACTUALLY HELP
PEOPLE...
THINGS THAT
MATTER.

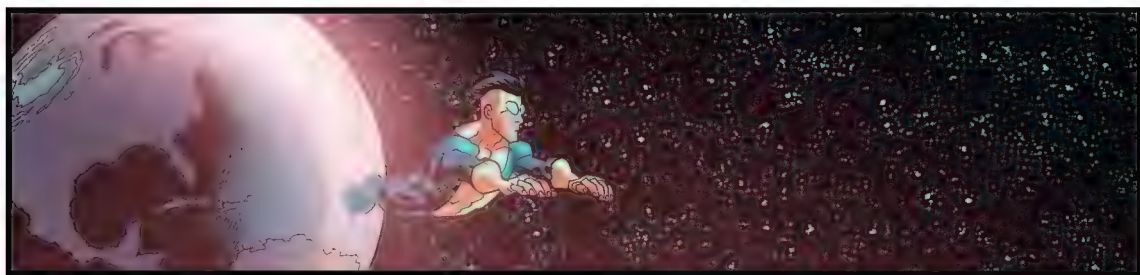


MARK... MY GOD, ONE
MINUTE YOU IMPRESS
ME WITH YOUR PLANNING
OF THIS MEETING,
THINKING ONE STEP AHEAD
OF ME... AND THE NEXT...
YOU COULDN'T
SOUND MORE...

NAIVE.







WOW, THEY'VE GOT YOU BACK IN ONE PIECE-- YOU'D NEVER KNOW ANYTHING HAPPENED!

YEAH, THEY GREW MY SKIN OVER NEW MECHANICAL PARTS. THEY ALMOST FEEL NORMAL.



I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT THIS REUNION, BUT WE'RE HERE FOR A REASON...



WHERE'S MOM AND DAD? DID THEY COME?

WELL, NO... THEY...



THEY REMAINED ON TALESERIA. THERE'S A LOT TO DISCUSS. YOUR FATHER INFORMED ME OF THE VILTRUMITES' STATUS HERE ON EARTH, AND...

I'VE DEVISED A PLAN I NEED TO RUN PAST YOU.





HAVE YOU
LOST YOUR
MIND?!



MARK, PLEASE. JUST
THINK THIS THROUGH...
I UNDERSTAND YOUR
INITIAL REACTION, BUT
YOU NEED TO WEIGH
THIS AGAINST THE
ATROCITIES THE
VILTRUMITES HAVE
COMMITTED
ALL OVER THE
UNIVERSE.

JUST
CONSIDER
IT...



THIS SEEMS
WRONG AT FIRST,
BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S
THE ONLY WAY WE
CAN SAVE THE
UNIVERSE. THIS
FIXES EVERYTHING.



NO... IT
DOESN'T.

IF THERE'S
EVEN THE
SLIGHTEST CHANCE
THIS SCOURGE VIRUS
YOU HAVE WILL AFFECT
HUMANS... AND IT SOUNDS
LIKE IT'S PRETTY MUCH
CERTAIN... THERE'S
NO WAY YOU CAN
DO THIS.

ALLEN, THE
VILTRUMITES
KILLED NEARLY
ALL OF YOUR
PEOPLE...
HOW IS THIS
DIFFERENT?

IT'S DIFFERENT BECAUSE
ONCE THE VILTRUMITES
FEEL THEIR NUMBERS ARE
SUFFICIENT AND THEY'RE
THROUGH INTERBREEDING
WITH EARTH THEY WILL
RESUME THEIR MISSION
OF UNIVERSAL
CONQUEST.

THEN MORE
PEOPLE, LIKE MINE,
WILL BE PUSHED TO
THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION...
AND THAT'S ONLY THE
BEGINNING. THINK OF
WHAT THEY DID WITH THEIR
NUMBERS DWINDLING.
HOW MUCH **WORSE** WILL
THINGS BE WITH
THEIR FULL POWER
RESTORED?

IF I CAUSE
THE EXTINCTION
OF HUMANITY IN
ORDER TO RID US OF
THE VILTRUMITES--
THAT'S IT. IT STOPS
HERE AND THE HUMAN
RACE BECOMES A
WORTHY SACRIFICE
FOR THE GOOD OF
ALL LIFE IN THE
UNIVERSE.



MY
FATHER'S
NOT HERE
BECAUSE HE
DIDN'T AGREE
WITH YOU...
RIGHT?



HE
COULDN'T SEE
THE BIGGER
PICTURE.
YOUR BROTHER
DOES... WHY
CAN'T YOU?



MY FATHER
IS RIGHT, AND
I'M SORRY OLIVER,
BUT YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN ODDLY
COLD TOWARD
HUMAN LIFE IN
GENERAL.

YOU
CAN'T
DO
THIS.



I'M
SORRY,
MARK. BUT
WE HAVE
TO.



DON'T ACT
SURPRISED,
ALLEN.

YOU KNEW I
COULD NEVER
LET YOU DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.

IN FACT, I'M
ALMOST CERTAIN
THAT SOMEWHERE,
DEEP INSIDE, YOU
WANT ME TO
STOP YOU!

DON'T
BET ON
IT!

AND YOU--
DON'T **DO**
THIS, OLIVER.
HELP ME STOP
ALLEN.

THERE ARE
PEOPLE ON THAT
PLANET YOU KNOW--
AND COUNTLESS
OTHERS WHO ARE
INNOCENT. THEY
DON'T DESERVE TO DIE!

THIS
ISN'T
ABOUT
THEM!

OLIVER IS
RIGHT--
BUT ENOUGH
ARGUING!
YOU'RE
WASTING
TIME!

THIS HAS
TO BE DONE
QUICKLY--IT HAS
TO BE DONE **NOW**!
BEFORE THEY GET
A CHANCE TO
DETECT WHAT'S
HAPPENING!

YOU NEED
TO JUST LET
THIS HAPPEN.
TRUST THAT I KNOW
WHAT IS BEST. I
WAS MADE HEAD OF
THE COALITION OF
PLANETS FOR
A REASON.

BESIDES--
NOLAN
COULDN'T
STOP ME.

WHAT
CHANCE
DO YOU
HAVE?!

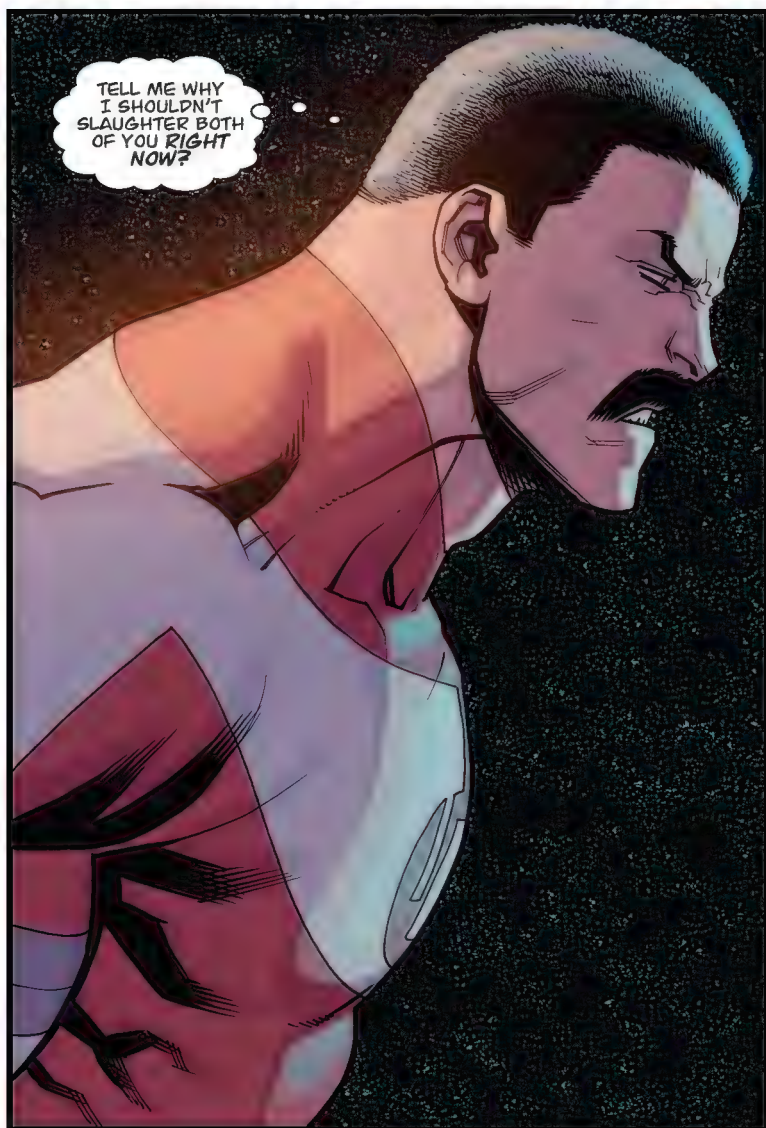


HE
HAS
ME.



CHAPTER FOUR

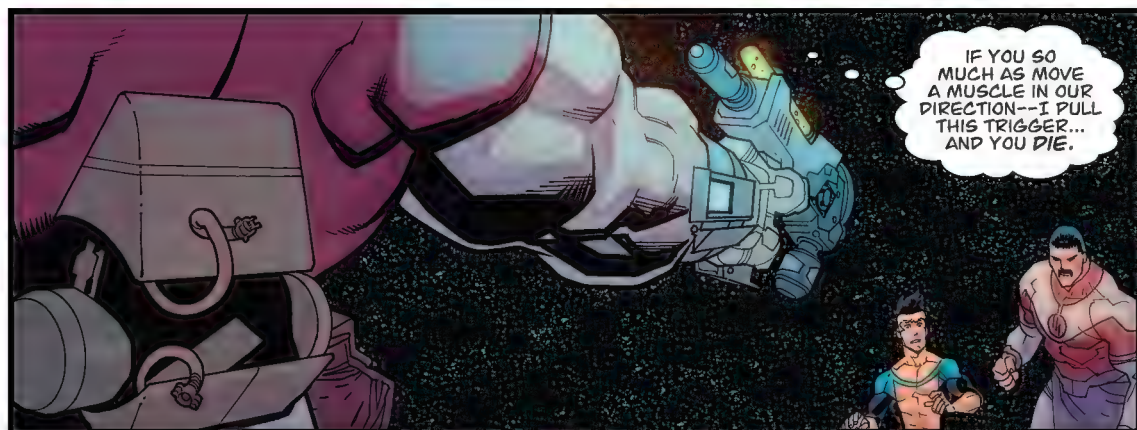




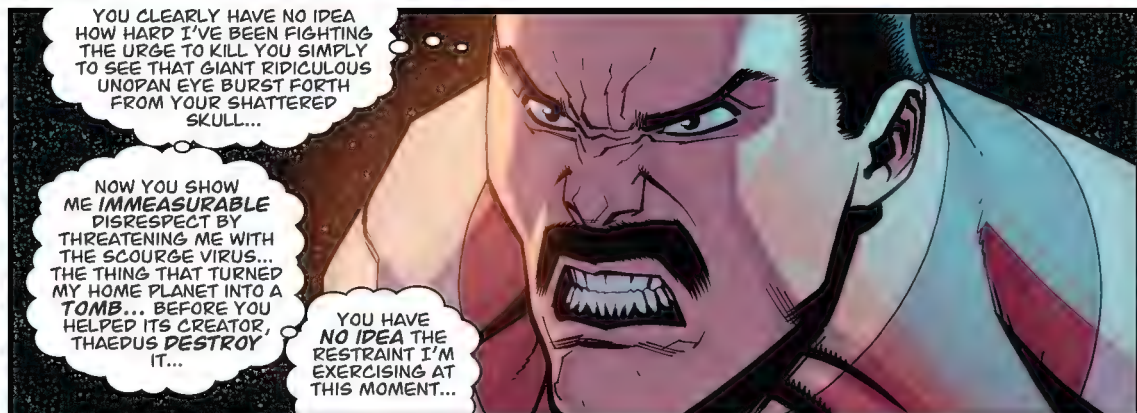


WELL, THERE'S A FEW REASONS THAT COME TO MIND RANGING FROM THE POIGNANT AND BOLD TO THE MUNDANE AND DESPERATE.

I COULD LIST THEM ALL, BUT THAT WOULD TAKE A WHILE. SO I'LL JUST DIVE INTO THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE...



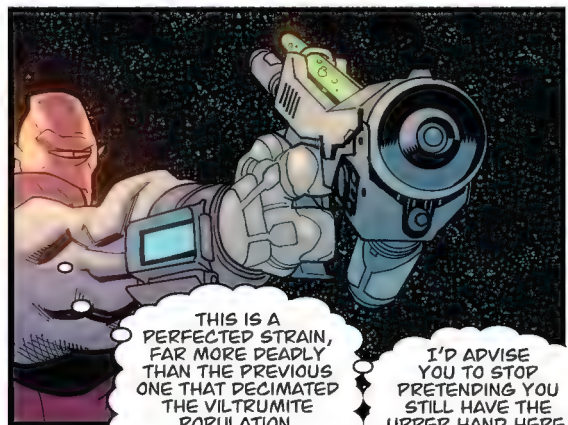
IF YOU SO MUCH AS MOVE A MUSCLE IN OUR DIRECTION--I PULL THIS TRIGGER... AND YOU DIE.



YOU CLEARLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE URGE TO KILL YOU SIMPLY TO SEE THAT GIANT RIDICULOUS UNOPAN EYE BURST FORTH FROM YOUR SHATTERED SKULL...

NOW YOU SHOW ME **IMMEASURABLE** DISRESPECT BY THREATENING ME WITH THE SCOURGE VIRUS... THE THING THAT TURNED MY HOME PLANET INTO A **TOMB**... BEFORE YOU HELPED ITS CREATOR, **THAEPUS DESTROY** IT...

YOU HAVE **NO IDEA** THE RESTRAINT I'M EXERCISING AT THIS MOMENT...



THIS IS A PERFECTED STRAIN, FAR MORE DEADLY THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE THAT DECIMATED THE VILTRUMITE POPULATION.

I'D ADVISE YOU TO STOP PRETENDING YOU STILL HAVE THE UPPER HAND HERE.



NO MATTER THE LEVEL OF PERFECTION YOU'VE ACHIEVED WITH THIS NEW STRAIN... I KNOW I COULD SEPARATE YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR BODY BEFORE THE VIRUS TAKES EFFECT ON ME.

JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR ON THE TERMS OF THIS STANDOFF.



OKAY, SO
IT'S OVER, RIGHT?
ALLEN--YOU'RE
PACKING IT IN AND
GOING HOME?

THRAGG KNOWS--
YOU'RE NOT CATCHING
THEM BY SURPRISE--
YOU RELEASE THIS THING
INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE
NOW AND THEY JUST TAKE
OFF, LEAVING THE PLANET
BEFORE THE VIRUS
SPREADS.

SO THAT'S
IT--YOUR
PLAN IS
OFFICIALLY
FOILED.



COME ON,
GUYS... LET'S
NOT DO
ANYTHING
CRAZY,
OKAY?

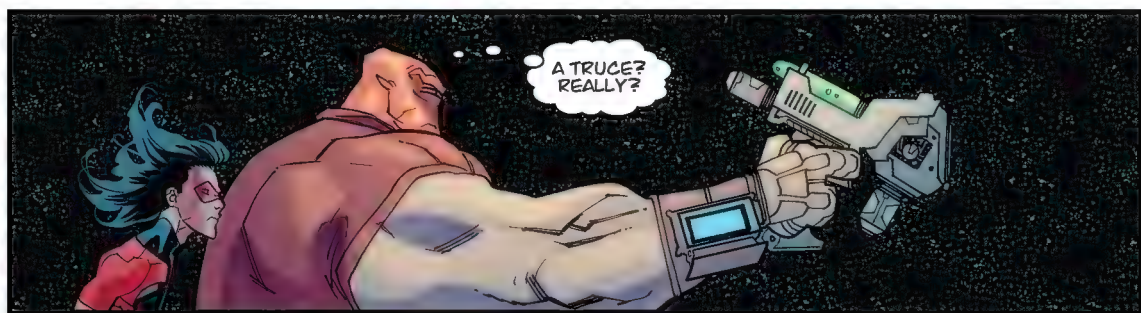
I'M SO
TOTALLY
UNPREPARED
FOR CRAZY
RIGHT NOW.


LET ME
BE CLEAR.
THERE WILL
BE NO FIGHT
HERE... NOT
NOW.

AS THE NEW HEAD OF THE
COALITION OF PLANETS, ALLEN...
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE
UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE...
AND NEED TO PROVE YOURSELF
WORTHY OF THE
APPOINTMENT.

I WOULD
LIKE TO
PROPOSE A
TRUCE.





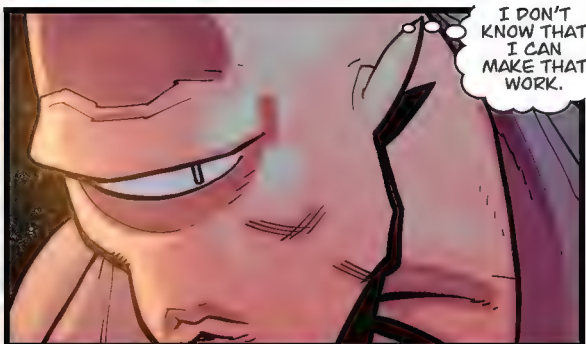


SO AGAIN, I PROPOSE A TRUCE.
WE OCCUPY THIS PLANET, IT'S
NOT A HOSTILE OCCUPATION, OUR
PRESENCE IS LARGELY UNKNOWN
BY THE POPULATION. YOU ARE
UNCOMFORTABLE WITH IT... BUT
I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH
YOU HAVING THE SCOURGE
VIRUS IN HAND, AT
THE READY.

YOU HAVE THE
ABILITY TO STRIKE AT
US WITH THIS VIRUS AT
ANY TIME. WE HAVE THE
ABILITY TO SLAUGHTER
EVERY LIVING THING ON
THIS PLANET--AND
RESUME OUR WAR WITH
THE COALITION.

WE ARE IN A
STANDOFF. I SAY
WE ALLOW OUR
POSITION TO REMAIN
AS SUCH, WITH EACH
PARTY KEEPING
THE OTHER IN
CHECK.

WE WILL LIVE
HERE, NOTHING
MORE... AND IN
RETURN, YOU WILL
NOT ATTEMPT
TO KILL US.




I DON'T
KNOW THAT
I CAN
MAKE THAT
WORK.



LET ME
HELP YOU.
YOU ARE
BACKED INTO
A CORNER.

YOU
HAVE NO
CHOICE.



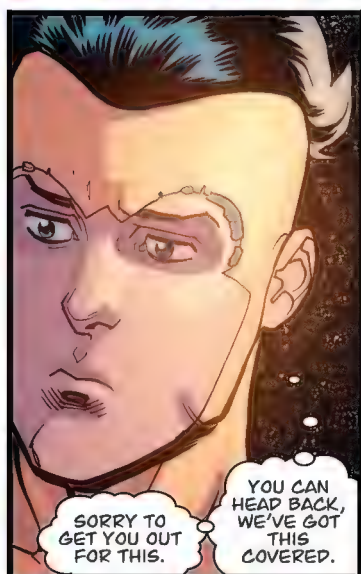
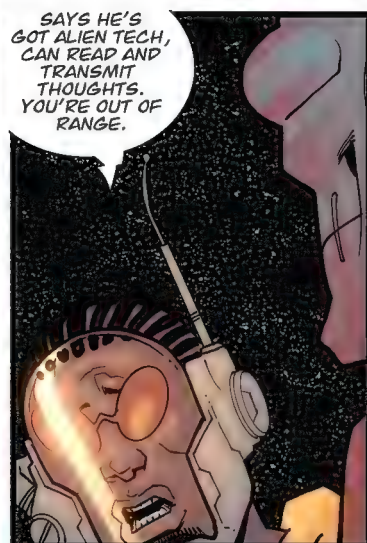
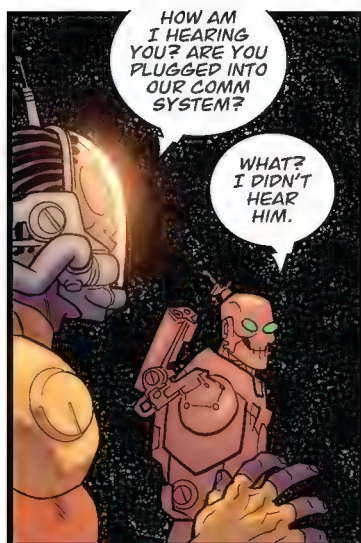
THE HELL WE DON'T!
I'M WILLING TO BET
YOUR PEOPLE ARE IN
DEEP COVER... I BET
THIS VIRUS WOULD GET
TO THEM BEFORE THEY
COULD GET OFF WORLD,
WE MAY NOT GET
ALL OF YOU,
BUT--

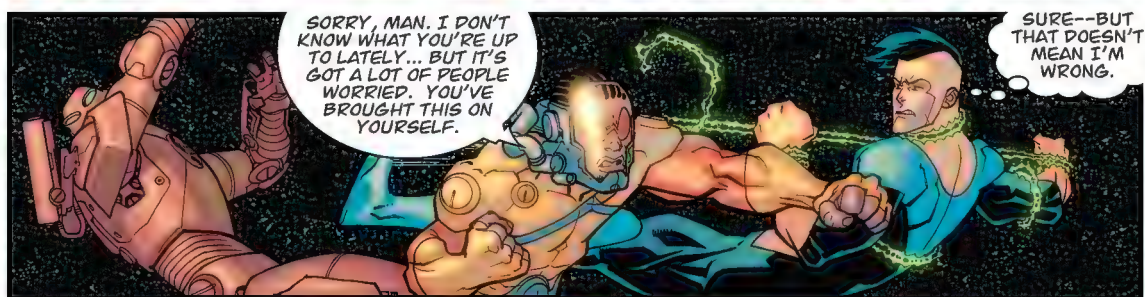
OLIVER...
STOP.

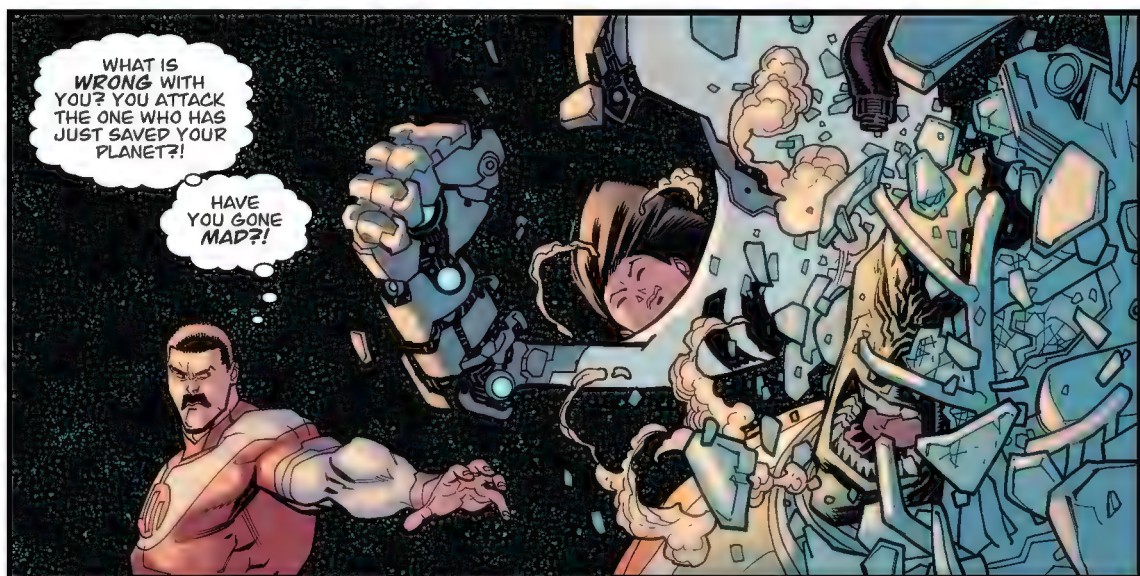
THRAGG
IS RIGHT.



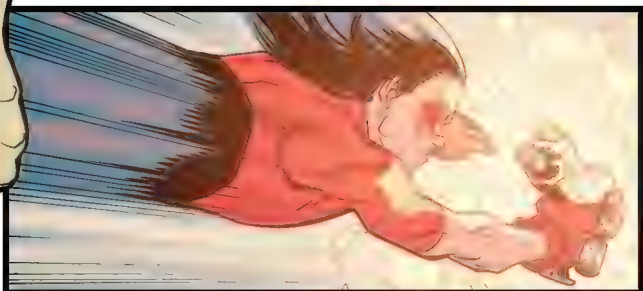
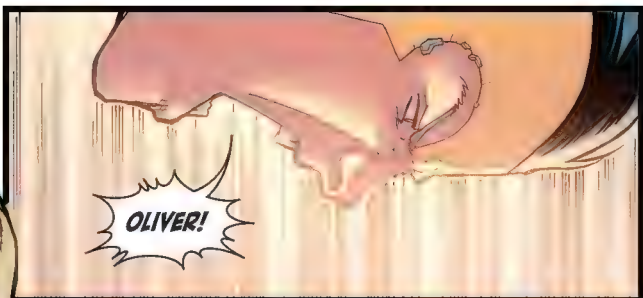
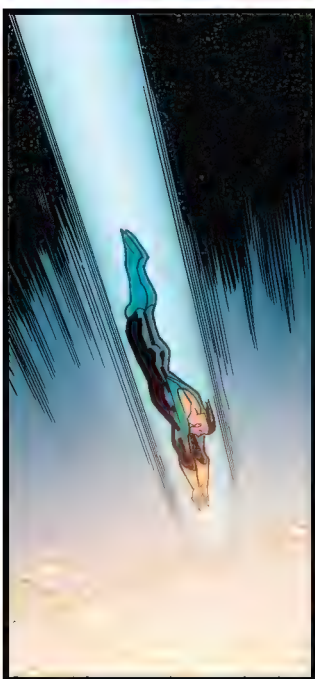
OH,
WHAT THE
HECK?

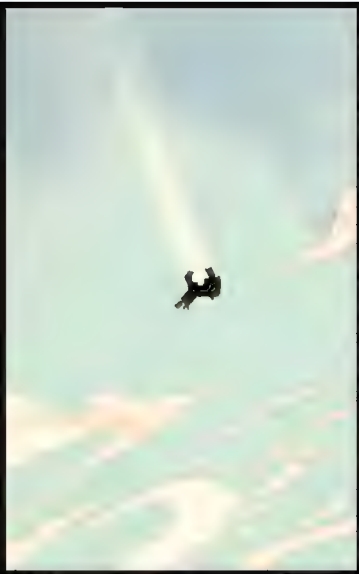


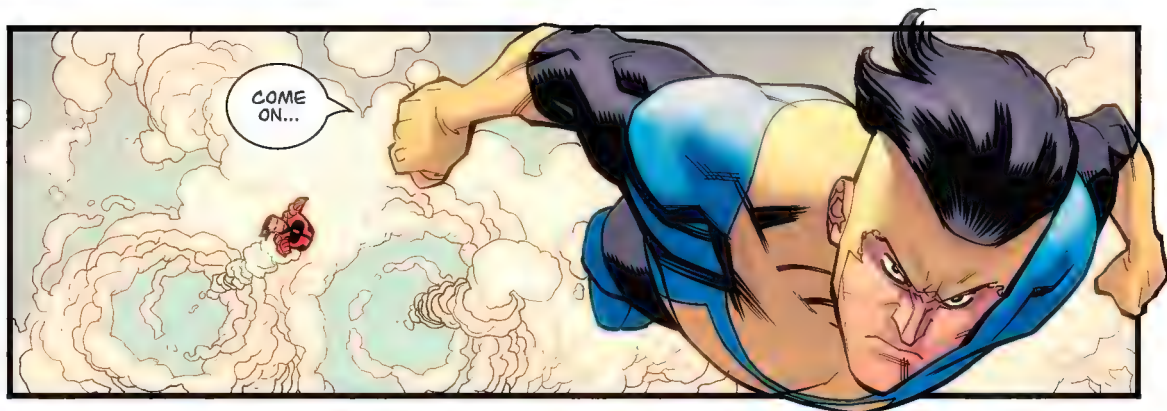














I'M THROUGH ARGUING
WITH YOU ABOUT THIS!
I'M SICK OF IT! YOU'RE
WRONG! AND NOW
YOU'VE GOT ALLEN
RECONSIDERING---

THIS
HAS TO BE
DONE!

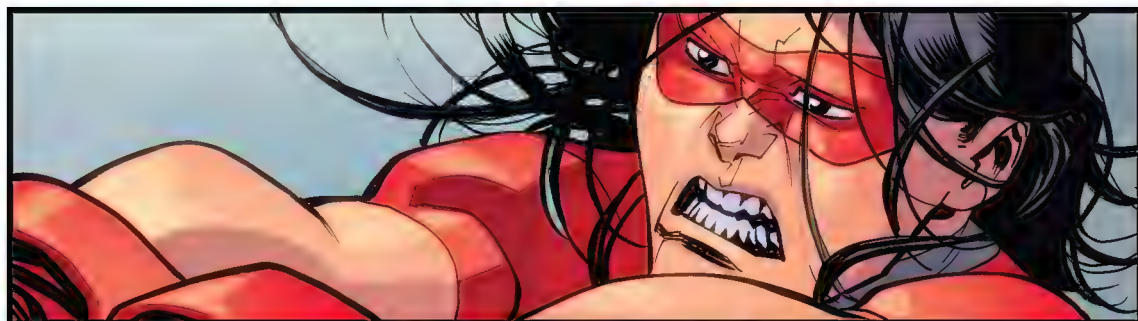
NO,
OLIVER...
JUST...

PLEASE.

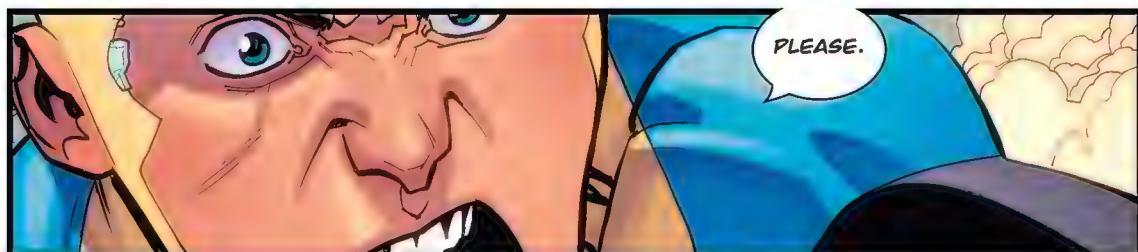


PLEASE...

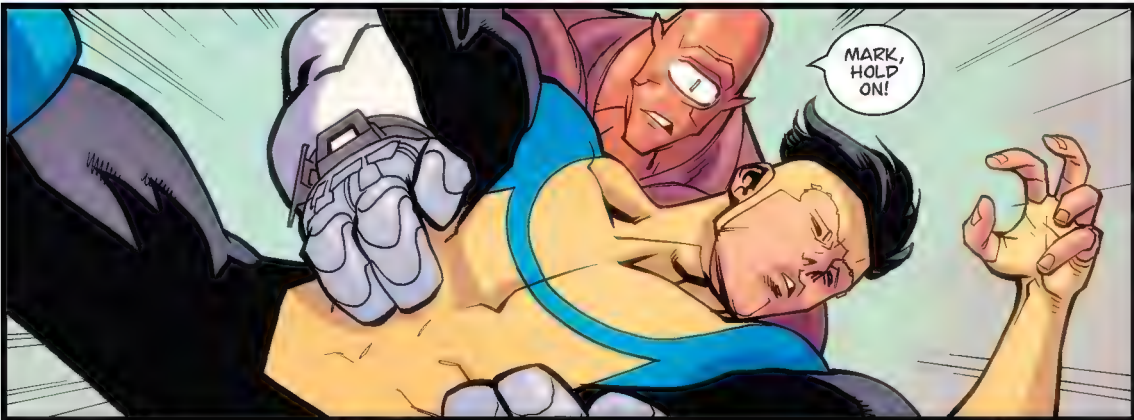
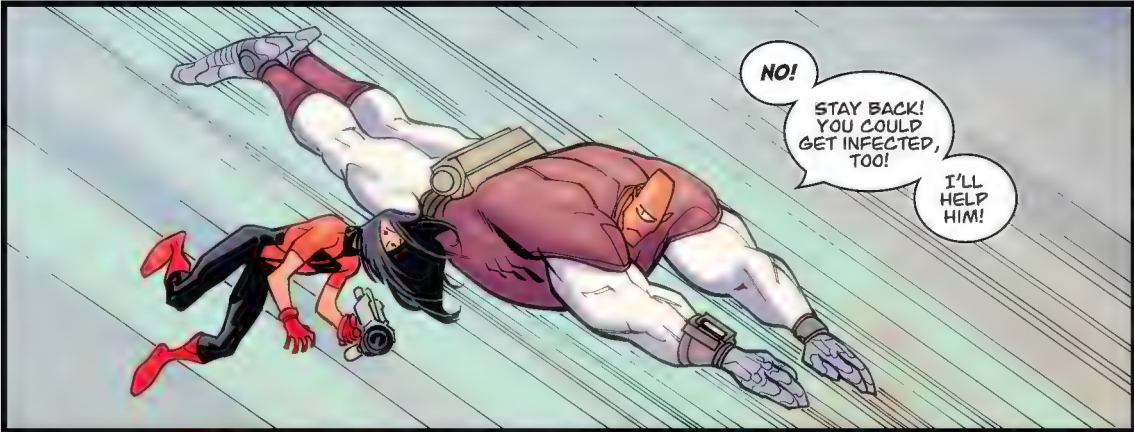
DON'T--

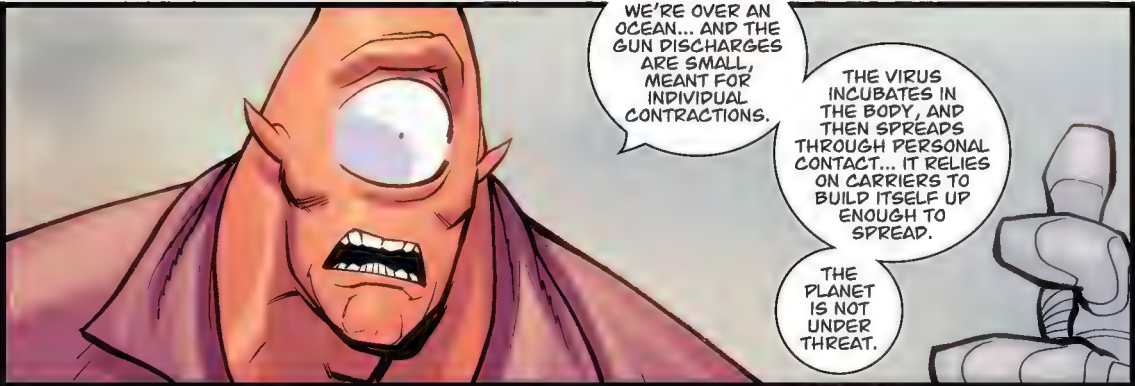
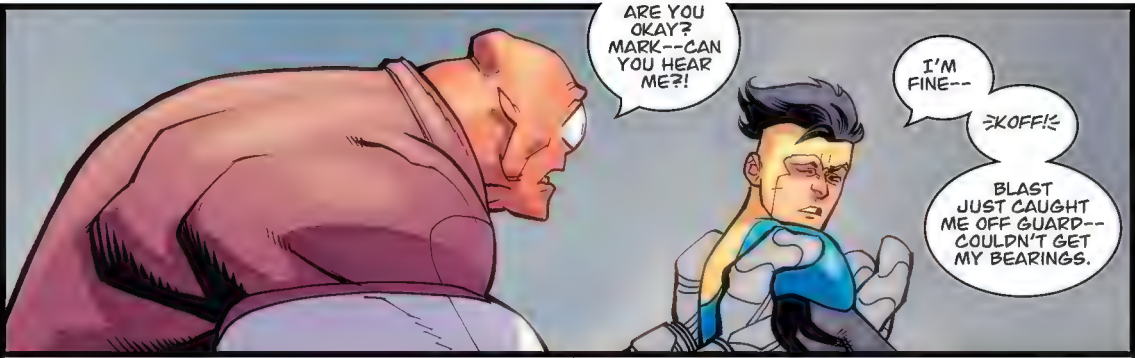


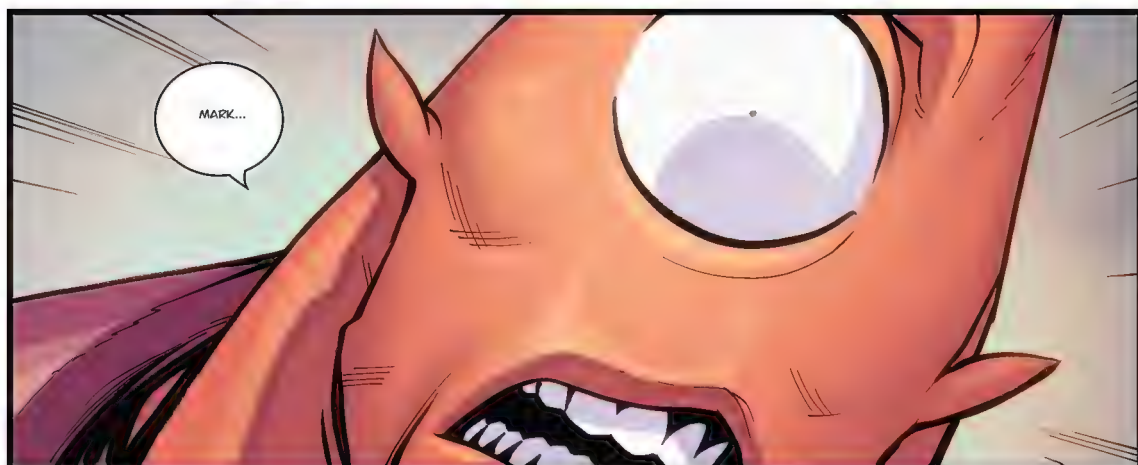
PLEASE.













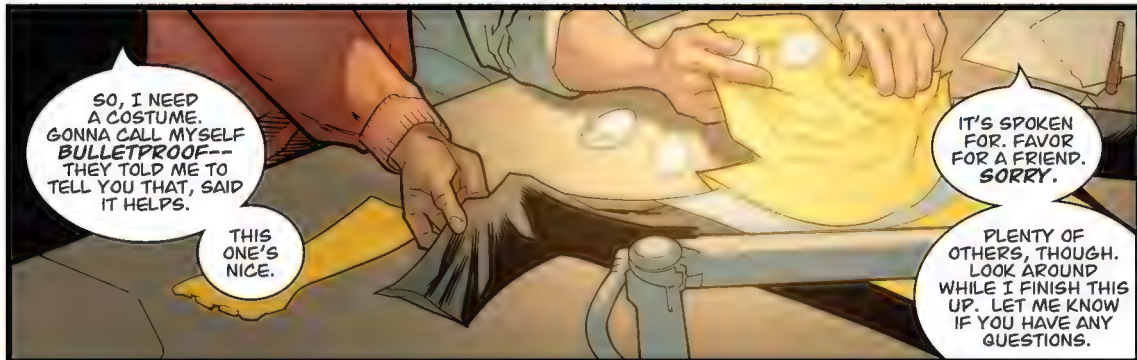
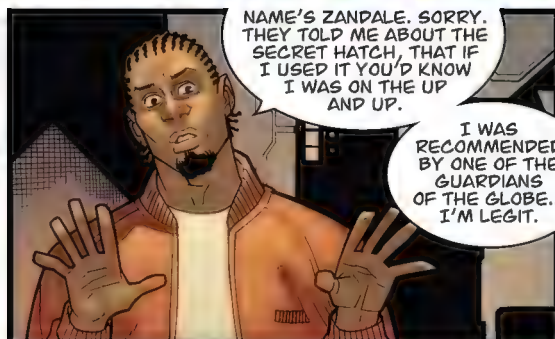
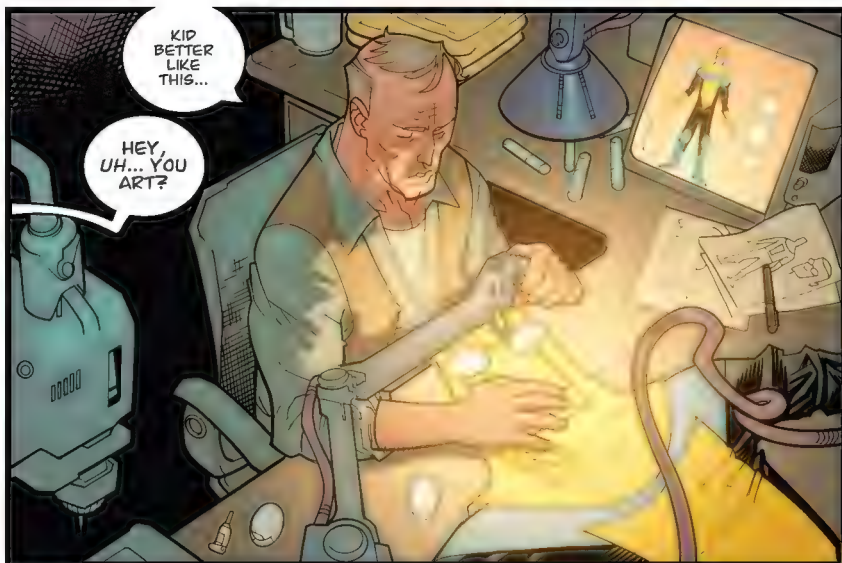
WHAT?

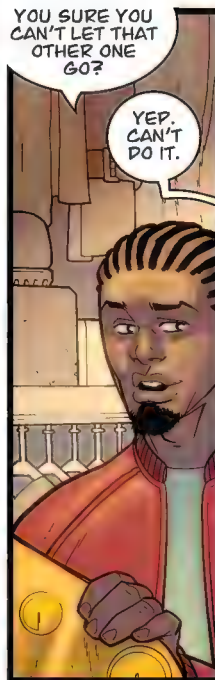
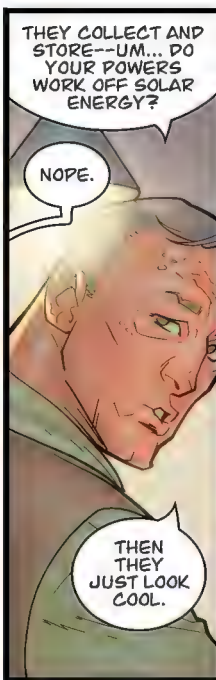
ALLEN,
I'M FINE.



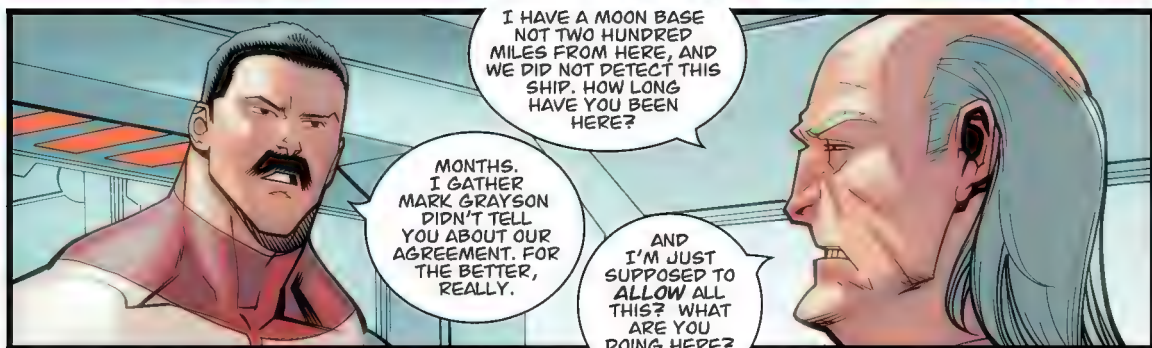
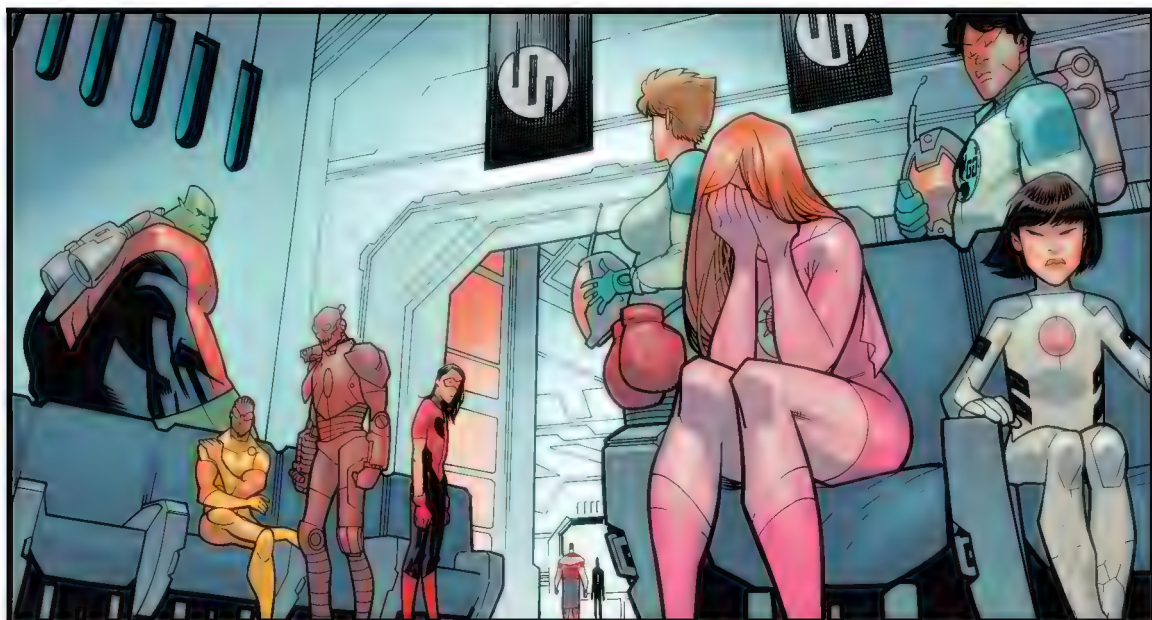
CHAPTER FIVE







THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON.





YOU SIMPLY
HAVE NO **CHOICE**
IN THE MATTER.
THERE IS NOTHING YOU
CAN DO. YOU DID NOT
DETECT OUR PRESENCE
HERE, BECAUSE OUR
TECHNOLOGY IS **VASTLY**
MORE ADVANCED
THAN YOURS.

YOU MUST
HONOR THE
AGREEMENT WE
HAVE WITH MARK.
OTHERWISE, WE
WILL **DESTROY**
YOU.

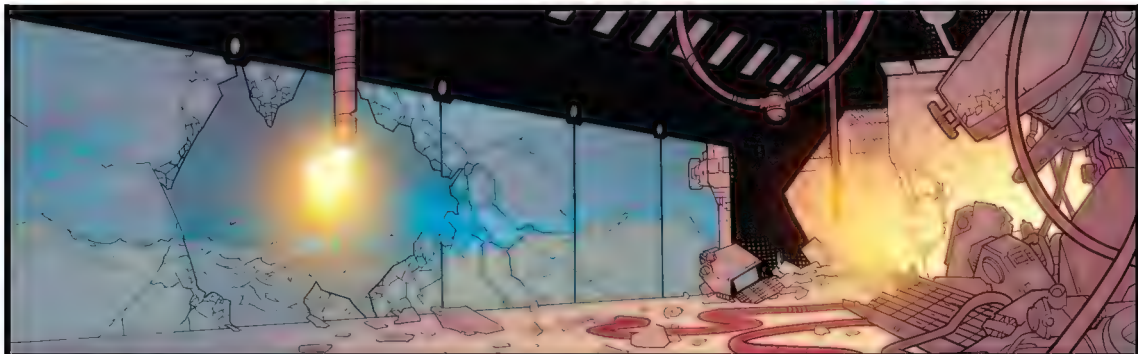
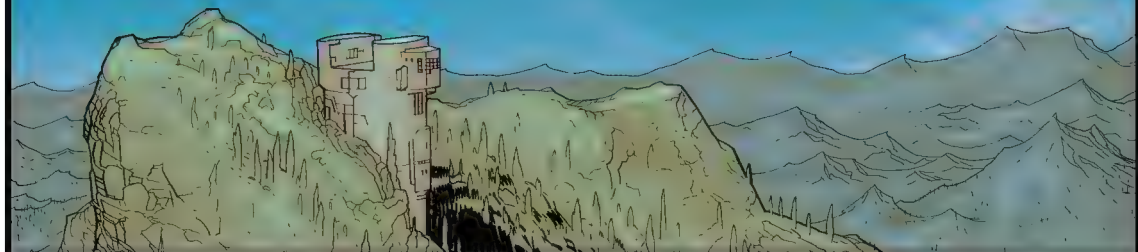
WE WILL
COEXIST IN
PEACE BECAUSE
TO DO OTHERWISE
WOULD DRAW THE
ATTENTION OF THE
COALITION OF PLANETS,
WHICH COULD LEAD TO
THE EXTINCTION OF
MY PEOPLE.

AND, IT
APPEARS,
YOURS AS
WELL.

AS TO
OUR CURRENT
SITUATION. WE
HAVE DEALT WITH
THE SCOURGE
VIRUS BEFORE.
WE KNOW HOW
TO HANDLE
IT.




UNDISCLOSED LOCATION,
THE SECRET BASE OF
DINOSAURUS.



NGGH.

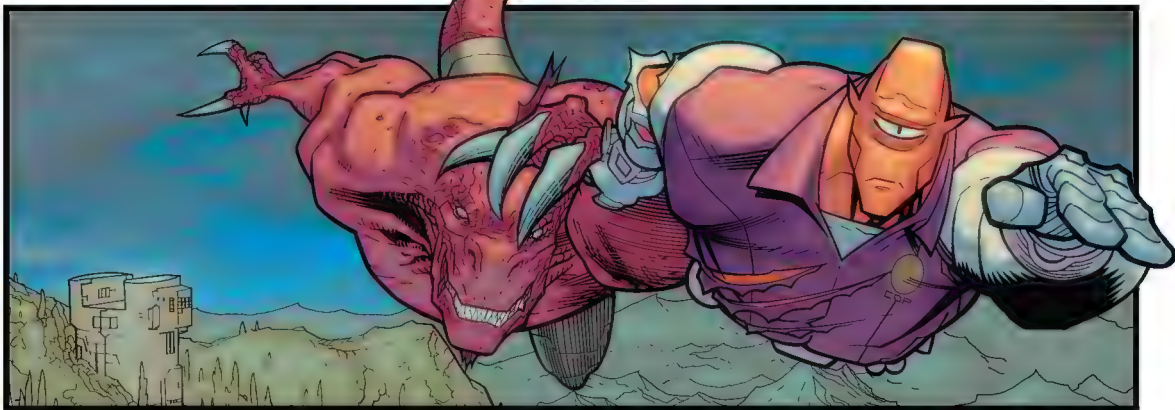
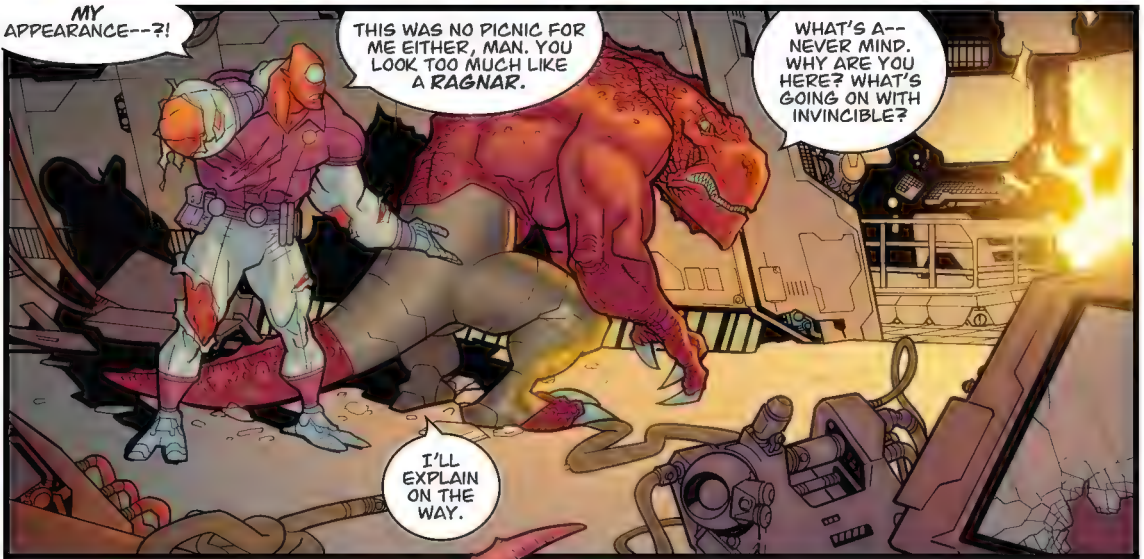
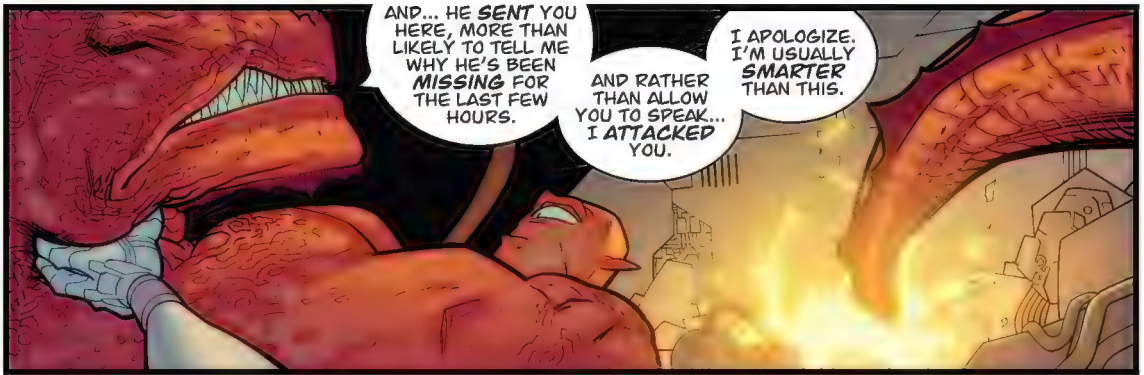
OKAY.

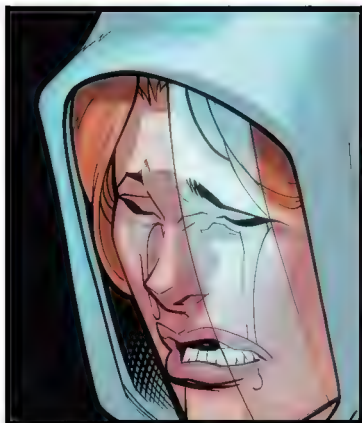
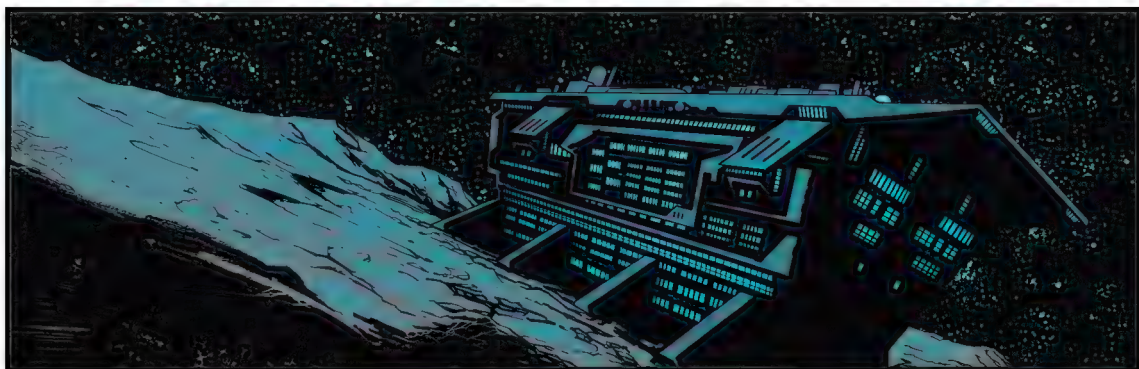


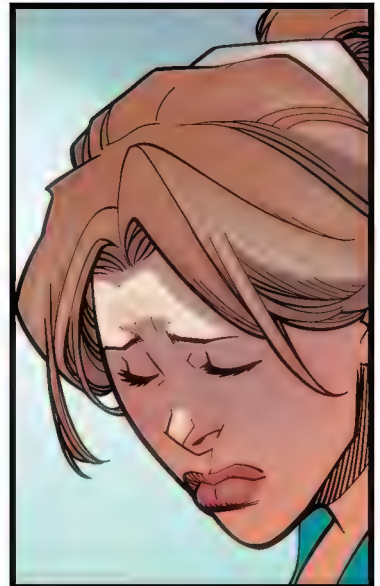
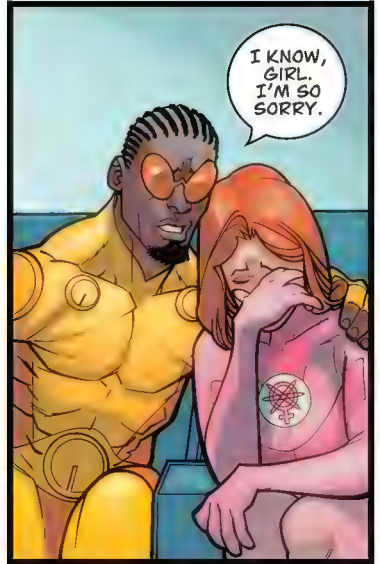
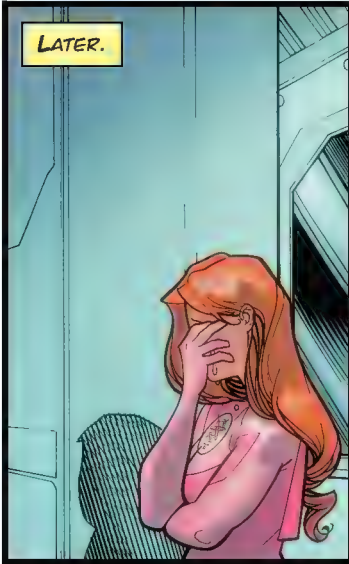
IT WOULD
APPEAR WE
ARE MORE OR
LESS EVENLY
MATCHED.

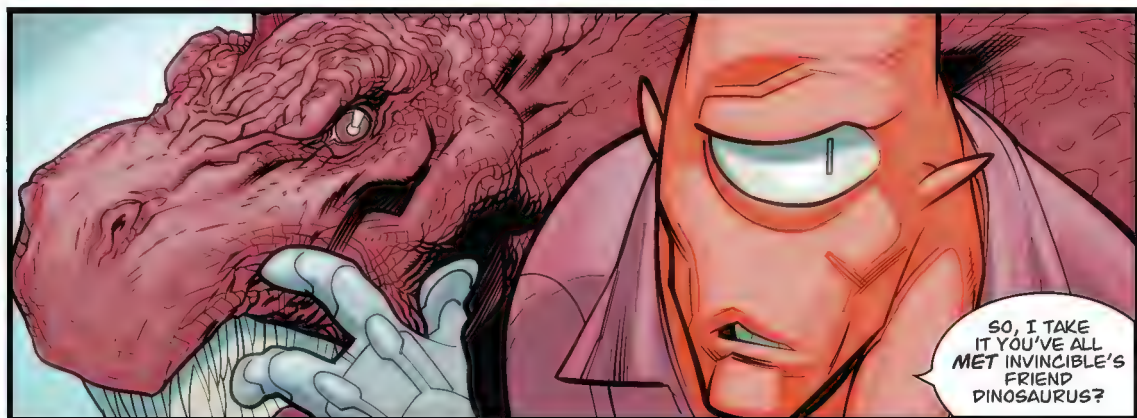
ACTUALLY,
I'VE BEEN
RESTRAINING
MYSELF QUITE
A BIT THIS
ENTIRE
TIME.

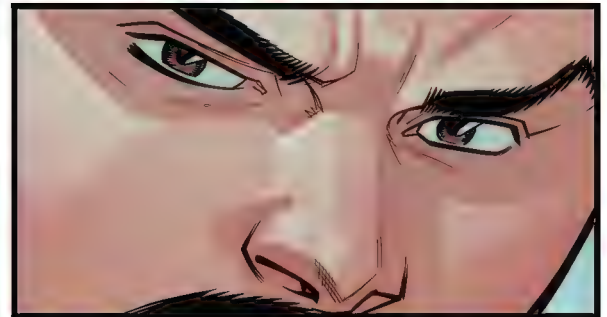
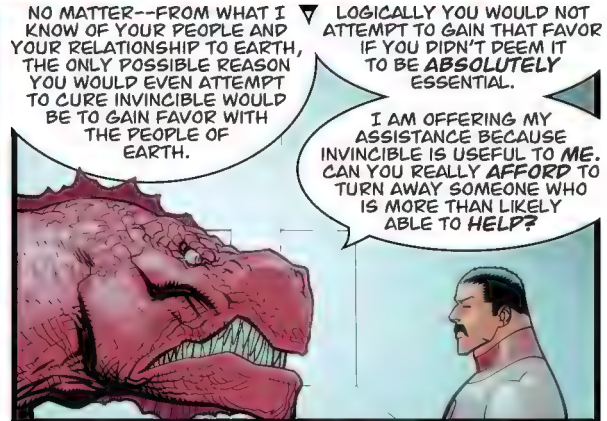
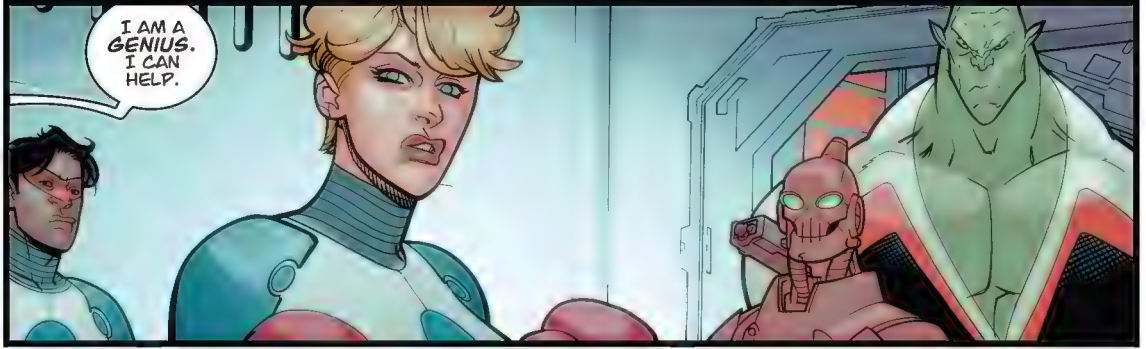
I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF
HURTING YOU.
I'M FRIENDS
WITH
INVINCIBLE.

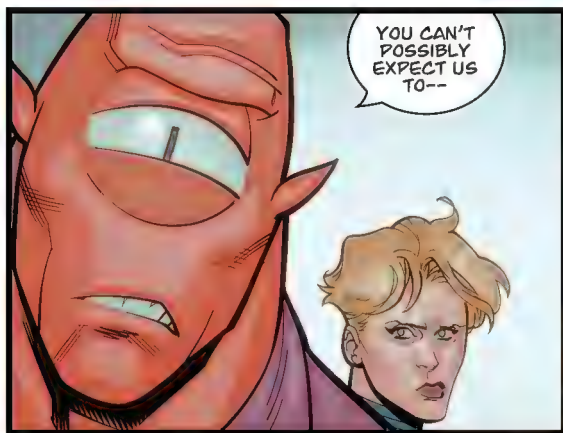


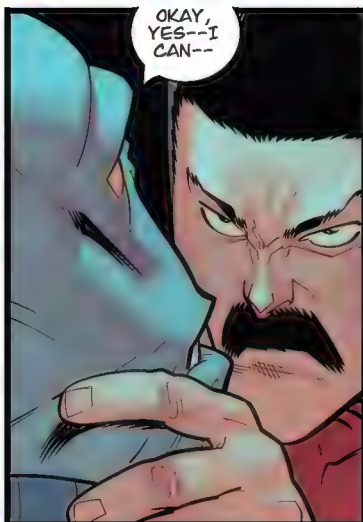
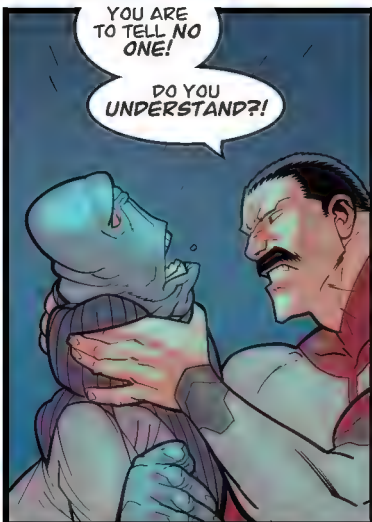




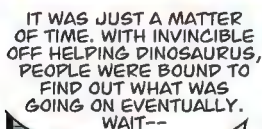
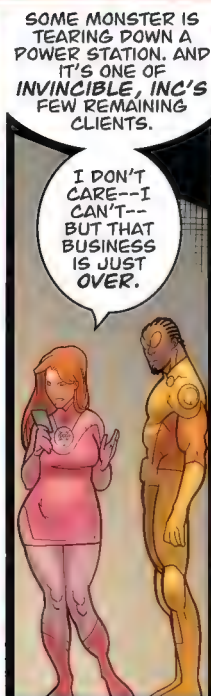
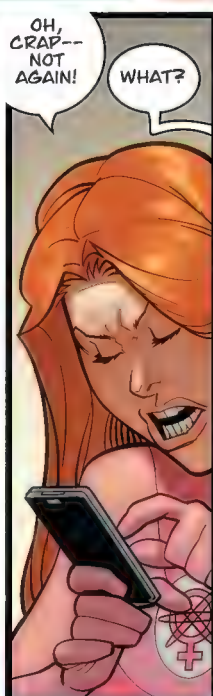
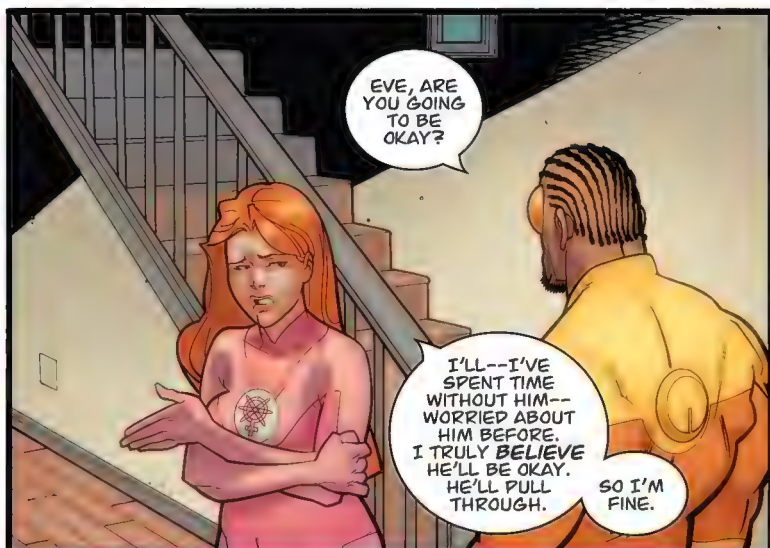
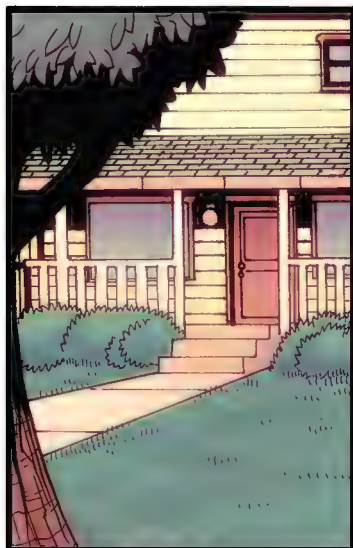




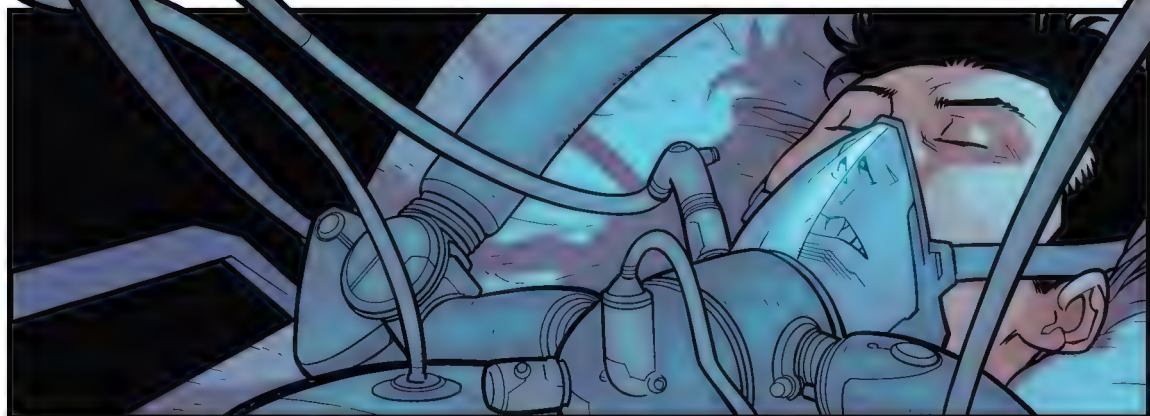
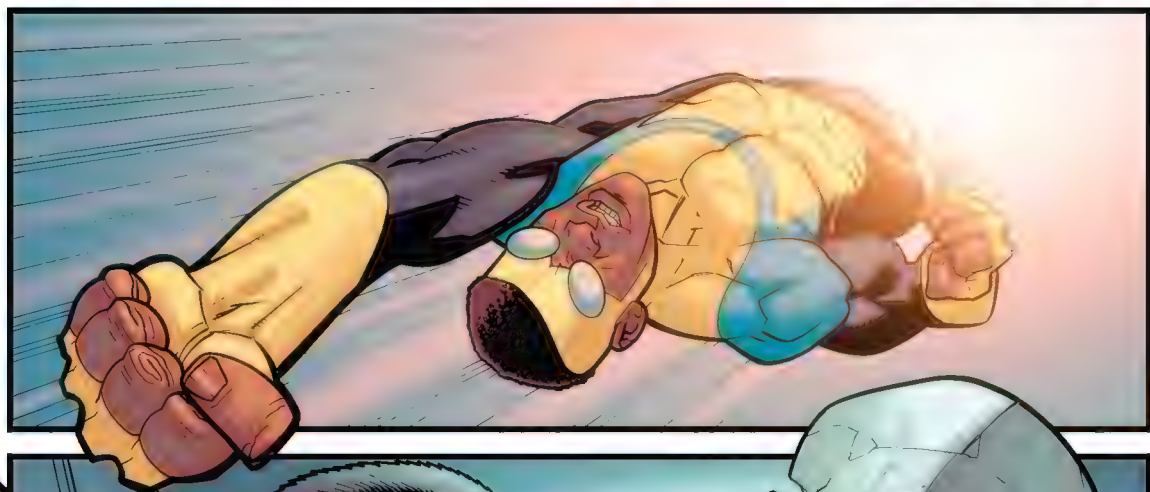














CHAPTER SIX



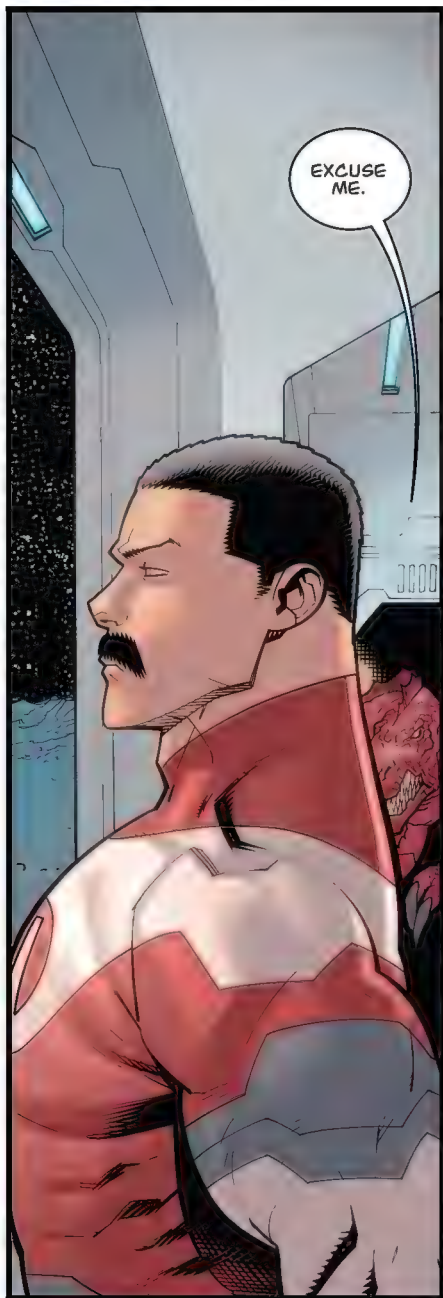




THE LAST REMAINING
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,
STATIONED ON THE MOON.



EXCUSE
ME.



HOW HAVE
YOU GAINED
ACCESS TO
MY--?!



CALM YOURSELF. I
TRUST YOU FAR LESS
THAN YOU TRUST ME.
I'VE TAPPED INTO
YOUR SYSTEM, I KNOW
THE LAYOUT WELL
ENOUGH TO FIND YOUR
QUARTERS... AND
ESCAPE IF I
NEED TO.

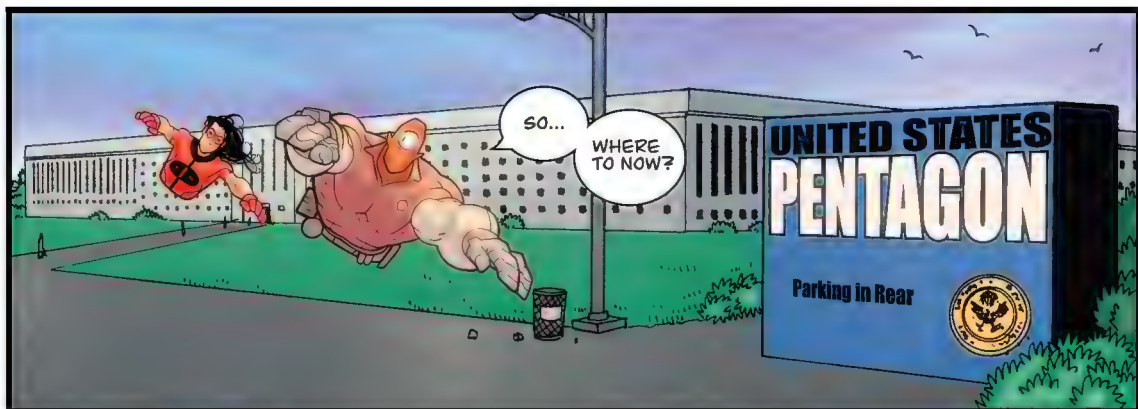
I'VE MADE SOME ADVANCES,
BUT THERE ARE SOME NOTES
I'M CURRENTLY UNABLE TO
DECIPHER. COULD YOU ALLOW
ME ACCESS TO THE SCIENTIST
WHOSE WORK I'M STUDYING?
I HAVE SOME
QUESTIONS.



NO, I
CANNOT.
HE'S...

...UNAVAILABLE.





TALESCRIA?
WHY WOULD
WE STAY
HERE?

I HAVE NO
CONNECTION
TO THIS PLANET,
REALLY. THERE'S
NOWHERE FOR
ME TO GO NOW
THAT MY
MOTHER IS NOT
HERE.

OLIVER, I'M NOT LEAVING
UNTIL I KNOW MARK'S
OKAY. WE CAN'T JUST
LEAVE WITH HIM
IN VILTRUMITE
CUSTODY.

TRUE.

BESIDES,
MY MISSION
FAILED.
I'VE LET THE
COALITION DOWN.
I'M IN NO HURRY
TO RETURN
HOME.

OR EVEN
RETURN TO
OUR SHIP.

...

WHAT WERE
WE GOING TO
DO TO THESE
PEOPLE,
OLIVER?





WE WERE READY TO KILL EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD ON THIS PLANET-- AND IF THRAGG HADN'T REVEALED HIMSELF WHEN HE DID... WE WOULD HAVE DONE IT--AND IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED.

WE WOULDN'T HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A THING... THE VILTRUMITES WOULD STILL BE OUT THERE.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. THE VIRUS COULD HAVE KILLED THEM ALL.

HOW CAN YOU CARE FOR THESE PEOPLE LESS THAN I DO? I'VE SPENT NO TIME HERE.



I WAS BROUGHT HERE WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG--BUT I HAVE FULL RECOLLECTION OF EVERY MOMENT OF MY LIFE.

MY PEOPLE, THE THRAXANS, DO NOT FORM SIMILAR ATTACHMENTS AS THE PEOPLE OF EARTH. THRAXAN LIFESPANS ARE VERY SHORT, DEATH IS A PART OF LIFE... NOT A HORRIBLE OCCURRENCE.

I HAVE GROWN ATTACHED TO MY FAMILY AND SOME PEOPLE I'VE KNOWN... BUT TO ME... LIFE IS NOT SUCH A SPECIAL THING.



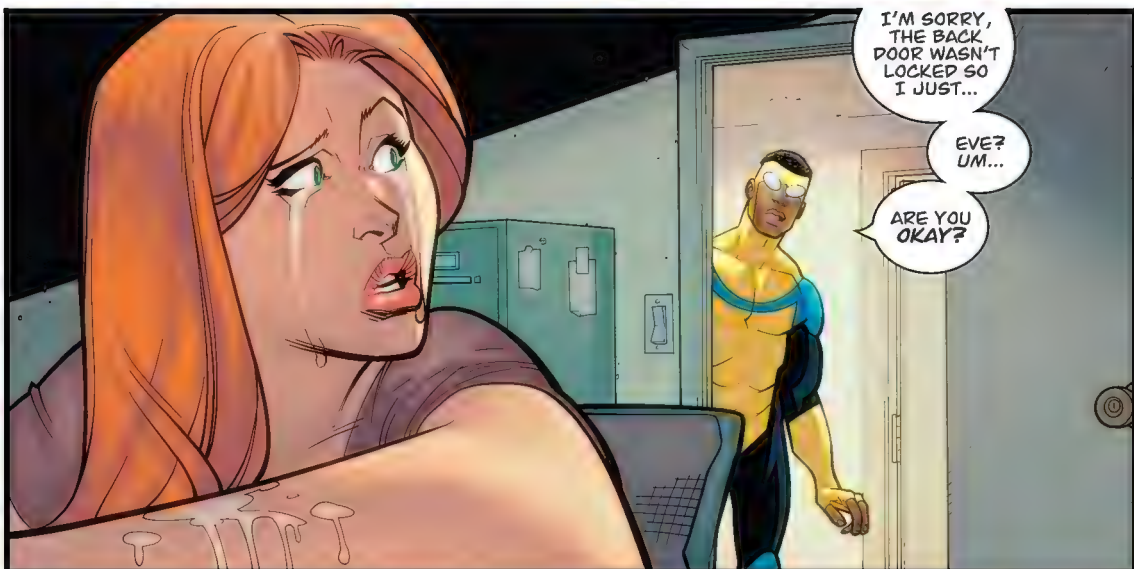
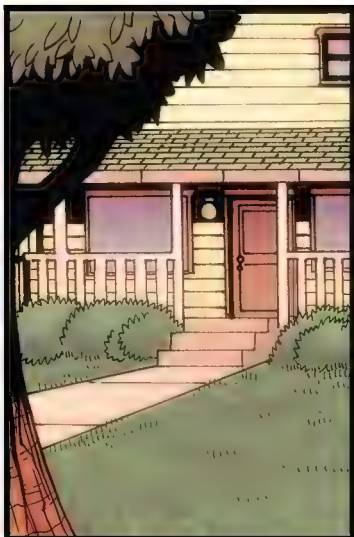
INTERESTING... ODD, MAYBE UNSETTLING BUT... INTERESTING.

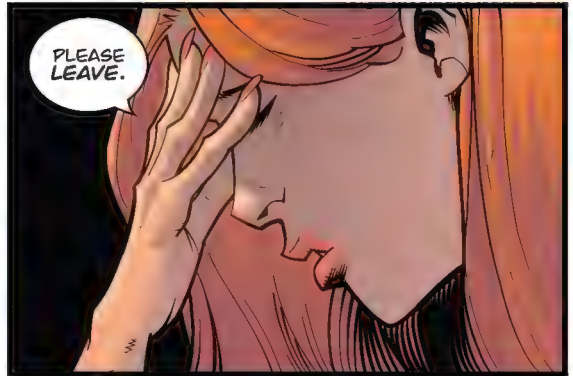
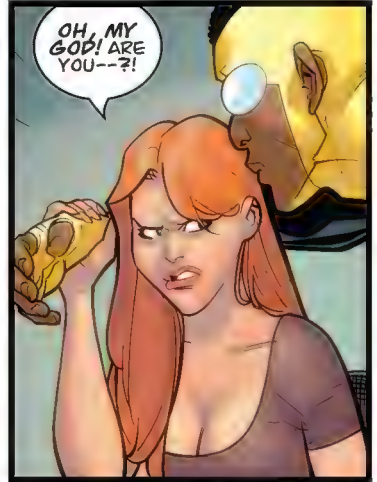
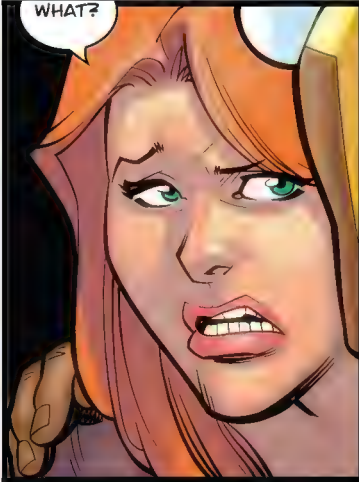
DO YOU WANT TO GO VISIT TECH JACKET?



SURE.









I'M TOLD THAT THE PERIOD OF TIME WHERE YOU CAN PASS ON THE SCOURGE VIRUS TO OTHERS... HAS PASSED.

ALL THIS TIME WE'VE BEEN STUDYING YOU, THE VIRUS, YOUR DNA... ALL THIS HARD WORK HAS PROVEN UNNECESSARY. YOU'RE GOING TO SURVIVE.

IT IS RARE FOR ONE AS YOUNG AS YOU TO BE ABLE TO FEND OFF THE SCOURGE VIRUS NATURALLY... THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS STUMPED MY SCIENTISTS...

...BUT I KNOW WHY.

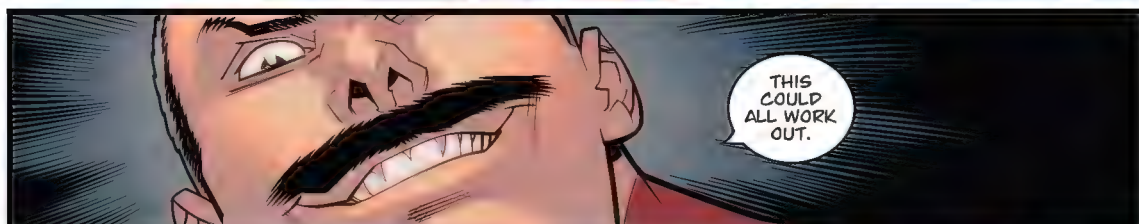
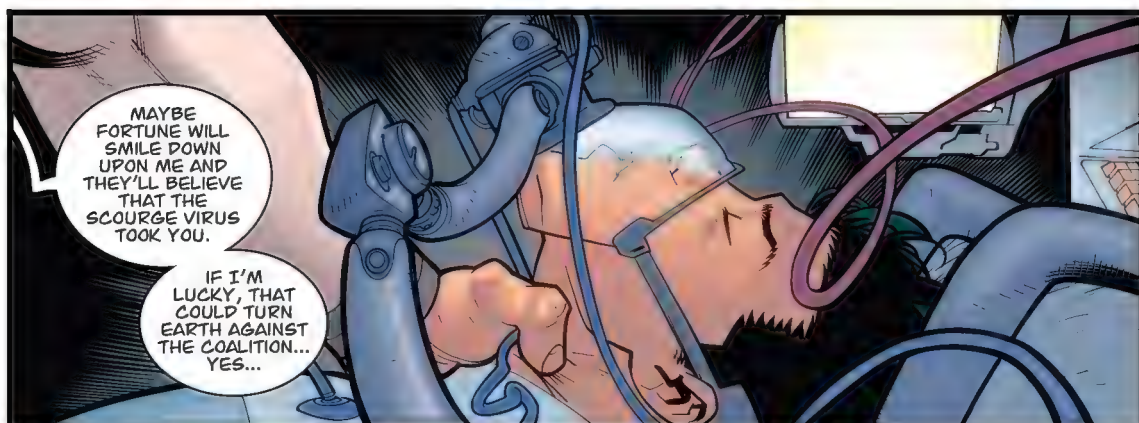
OF COURSE YOU WILL SURVIVE THIS VIRUS... FAILING TO DO SO WOULD BETRAY YOUR BLOODLINE.

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS I HAVE ACTED AS GRAND REGENT... CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF LOCATING THE LOST SON OF ARGALL, PLACING HIM ON THE THRONE OF VILTRUM...

YOUR FATHER... YOU... NO.

I WILL NOT YIELD MY POSITION TO TRAITORS.





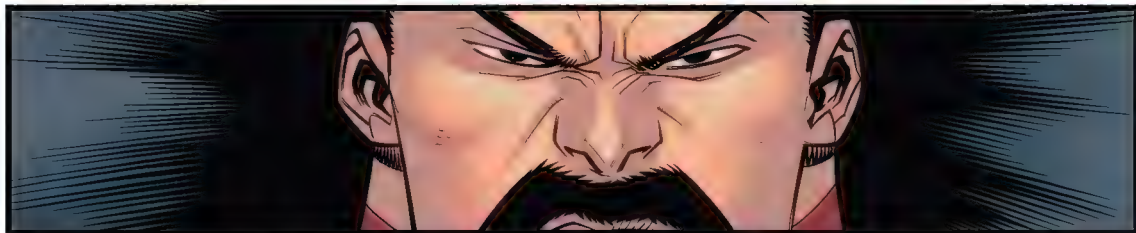
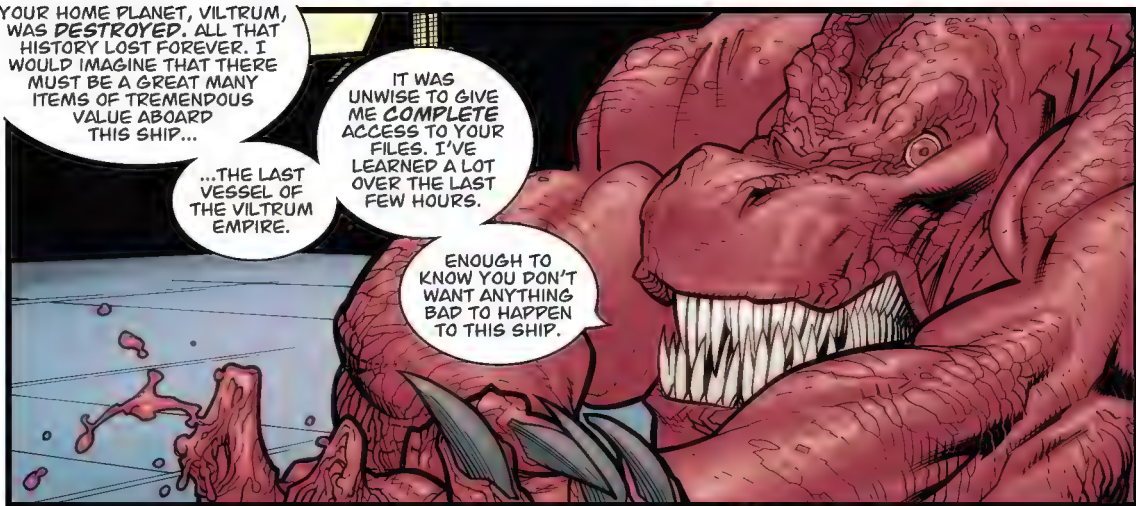


YOUR HOME PLANET, VILTRUM, WAS DESTROYED. ALL THAT HISTORY LOST FOREVER. I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THERE MUST BE A GREAT MANY ITEMS OF TREMENDOUS VALUE ABOARD THIS SHIP...

...THE LAST VESSEL OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.

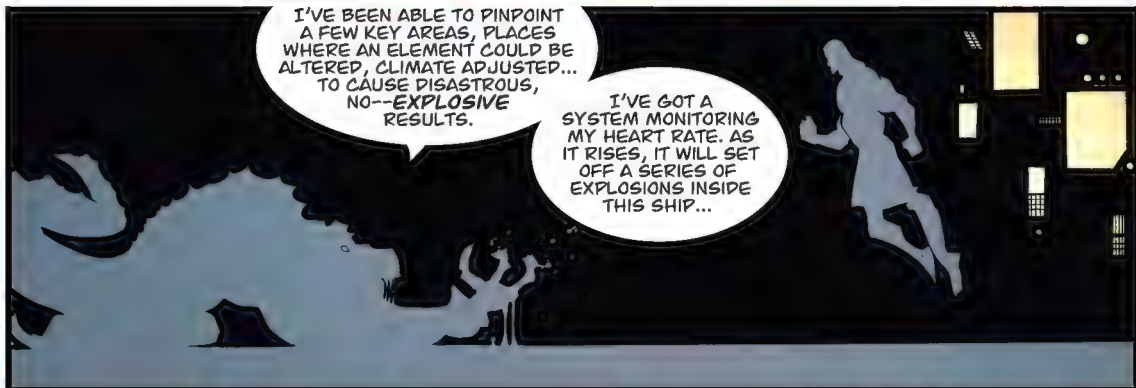
IT WAS UNWISE TO GIVE ME COMPLETE ACCESS TO YOUR FILES. I'VE LEARNED A LOT OVER THE LAST FEW HOURS.

ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ANYTHING BAD TO HAPPEN TO THIS SHIP.



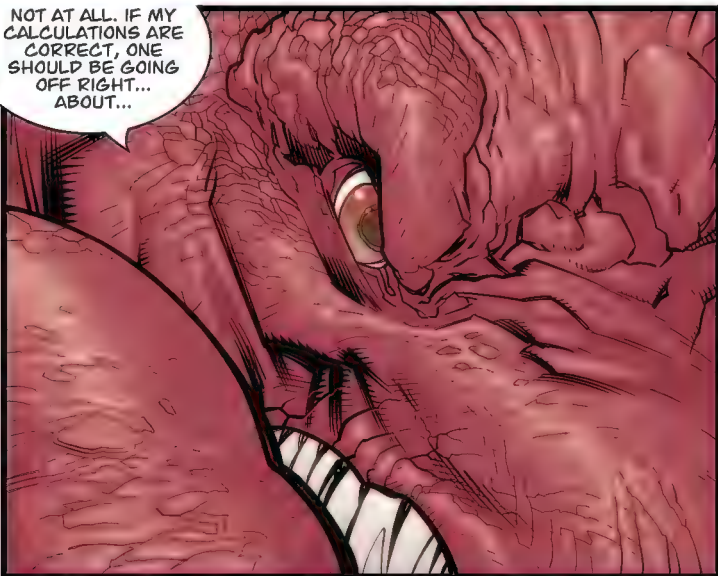
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PINPOINT A FEW KEY AREAS, PLACES WHERE AN ELEMENT COULD BE ALTERED, CLIMATE ADJUSTED... TO CAUSE DISASTROUS, NO--EXPLOSIVE RESULTS.

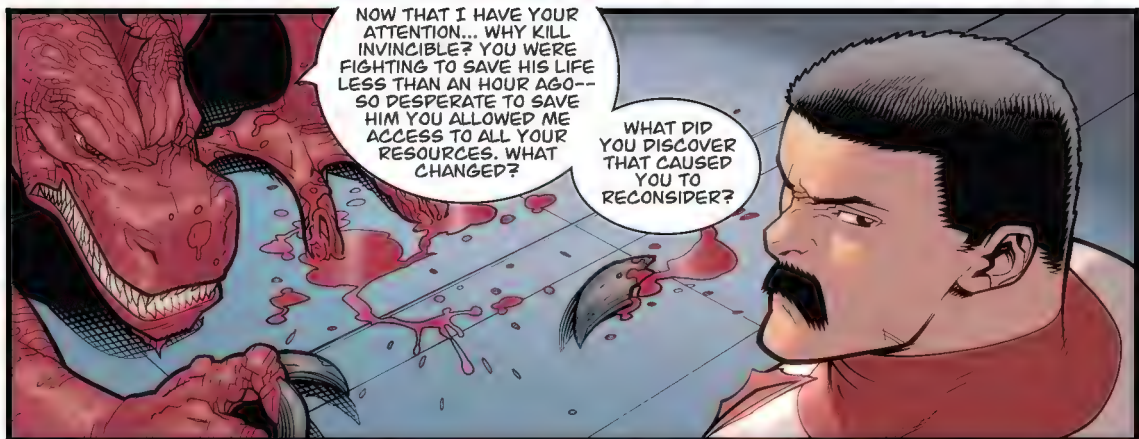
I'VE GOT A SYSTEM MONITORING MY HEART RATE. AS IT RISES, IT WILL SET OFF A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS INSIDE THIS SHIP...



YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE--

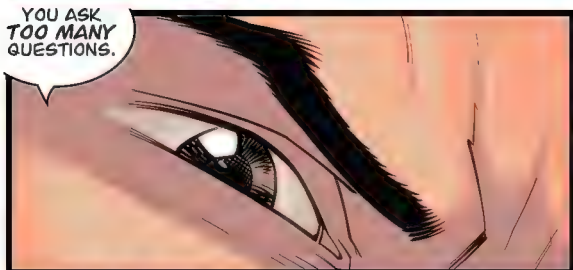
NOT AT ALL. IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, ONE SHOULD BE GOING OFF RIGHT... ABOUT...



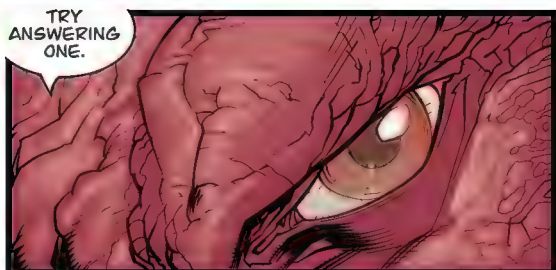


NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION... WHY KILL INVINCIBLE? YOU WERE FIGHTING TO SAVE HIS LIFE LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO-- SO DESPERATE TO SAVE HIM YOU ALLOWED ME ACCESS TO ALL YOUR RESOURCES. WHAT CHANGED?

WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER THAT CAUSED YOU TO RECONSIDER?



YOU ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS.

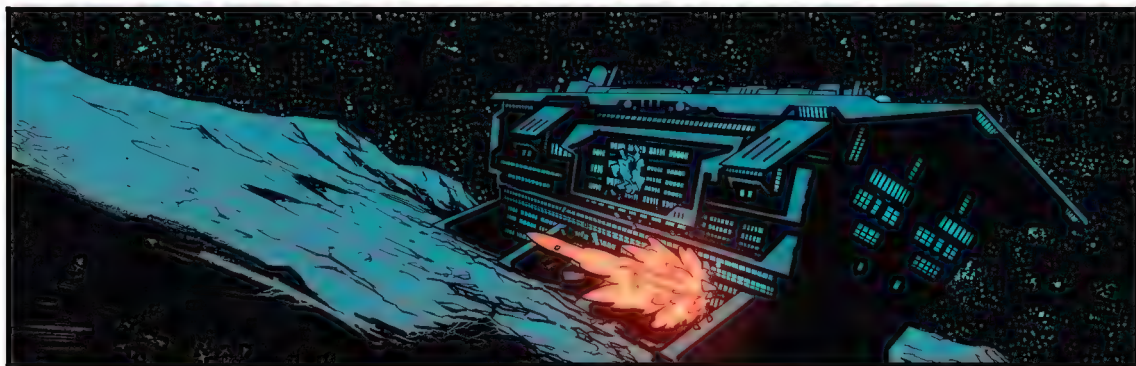
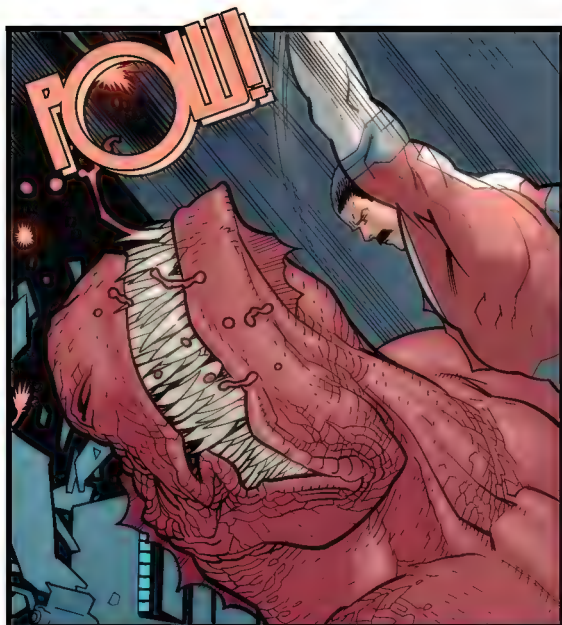


TRY ANSWERING ONE.

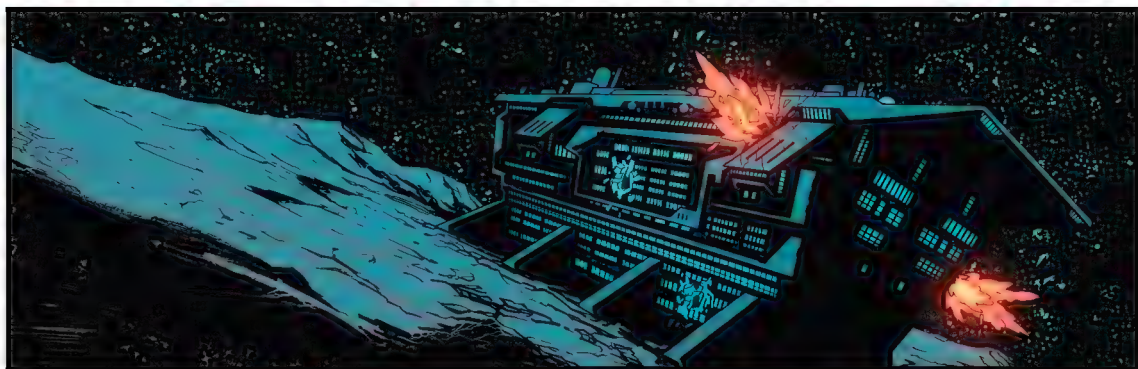


I'D RATHER DISCOVER IF YOU INSTALLED A FAILSAFE IF YOUR HEART STOPS.

YOU DON'T WANT--!

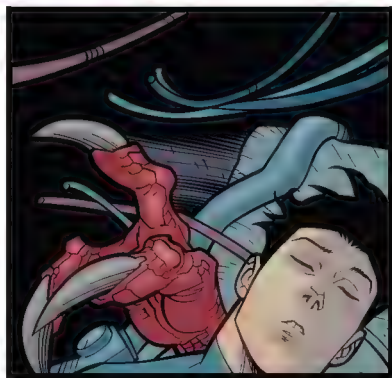




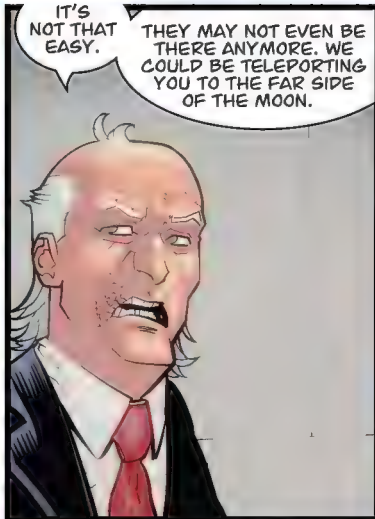
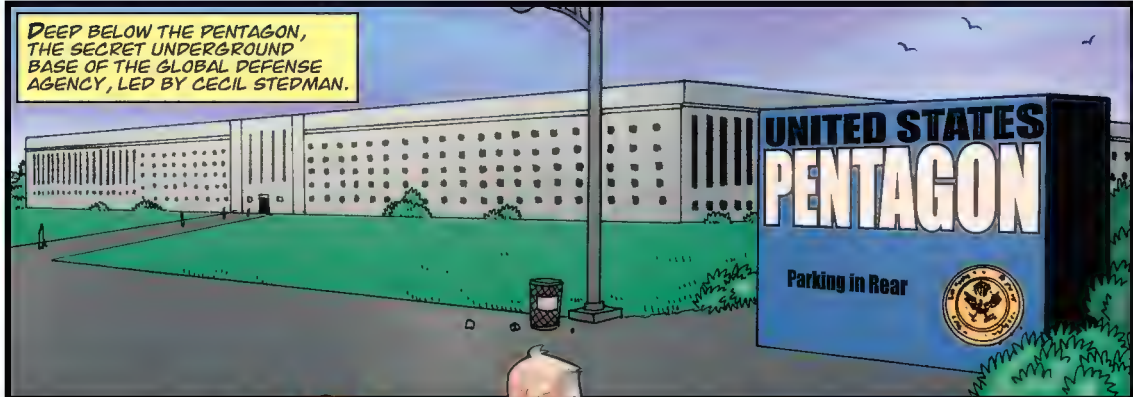


WHILE YOU'RE BUSY BLEEDING, I WILL ATTEND TO THIS. I SEE NOW THAT STOPPING YOUR HEART WOULD ONLY CAUSE MORE DAMAGE.

COLLECT YOURSELF. I'LL RETURN SHORTLY, YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE DEAD SOON ENOUGH.

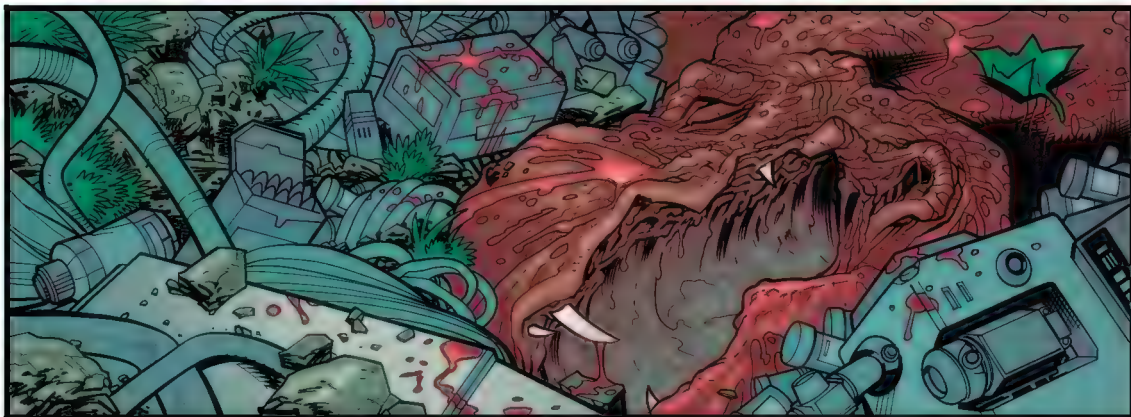
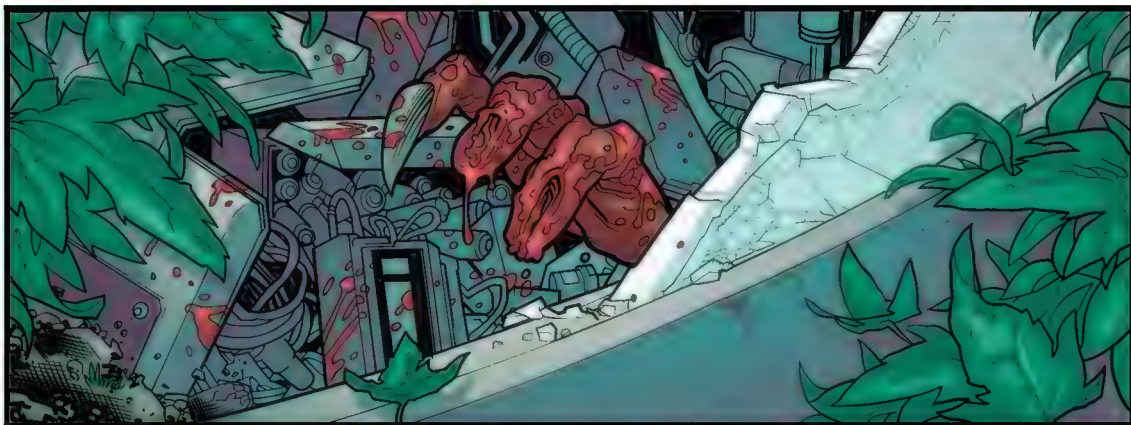
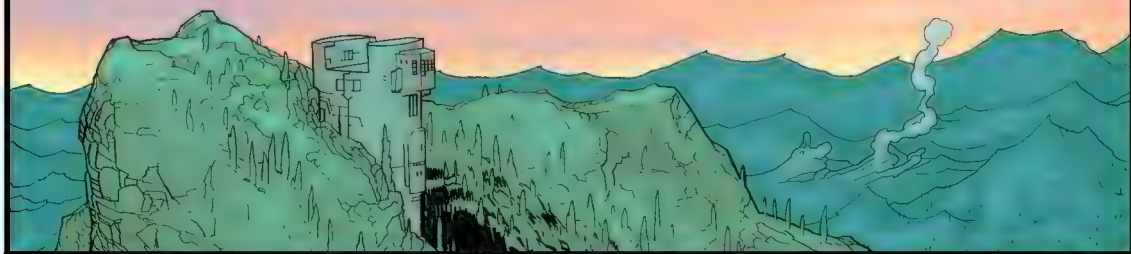








UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, THE
SECRET BASE OF PINOSAURUS.









ROBERT KIRKMAN: Another collection another cool cover by Ryan. This cover for the volume 16 trade paperback is definitely a great one... and one cool thing to maybe discuss a little is the fact that Ryan is working digitally a lot now. So the preliminary sketch seen on this very page was drawn on one of those computer things. Ryan--what up with that?!

RYAN OTTLEY: I have been evolving the way I draw for a while. With monthly comics I'm always in search of faster methods. At first, when drawing straight on the board I'd get a figure done and think: "Crap, if only the figure was a little smaller!" And then I'd have to erase the figure and draw it again bigger. Now doing digital layouts, if I draw something too small or too big, or in a weird spot, I can do easy quick changes in Photoshop. I'll then make the lines a light blue and print it out on a comic board and do my pencils and inks the traditional way. So, most of the work is still done old school style, with a dash of new.



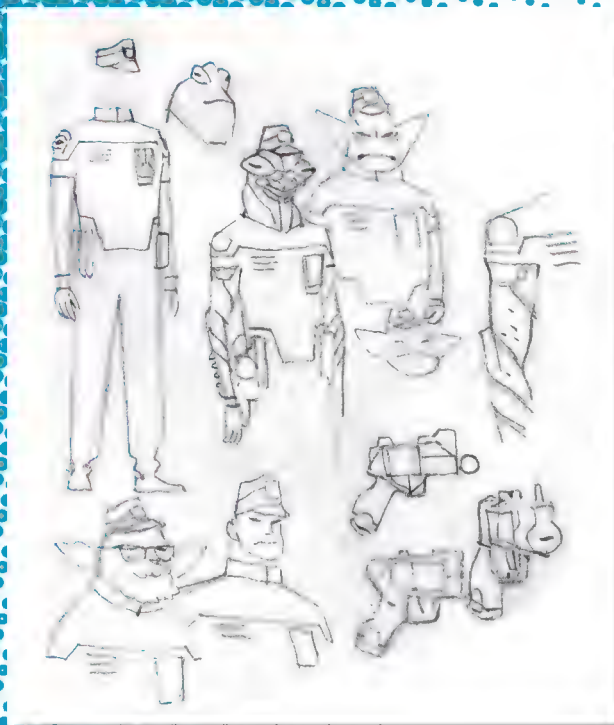


KIRKMAN: Speaking of being a great designer, it's the subtle things about this alien (That appeared for what, TWO pages?!) that make it awesome. The strange alien neck and shoulder muscles, the oddly long forearms... it's just a strange look that you don't really see a lot of. I love how much thought Cory puts into even the smallest little things.

OTTLEY: Yeah I need to start putting more thought and time into my designs. This stuff is amazing.

WALKER: Stop being so cruel, you guys. I don't know how much more of this I can take. I'm pretty disappointed that this guy looks way cooler in my sketchbook than he does in the pages of the comic. I don't know why that happens, but I really need to do something about it. I like where he has a little baby face that almost looks like a mask. I dropped the ball on this one, guys. Maybe you're right to mock me.

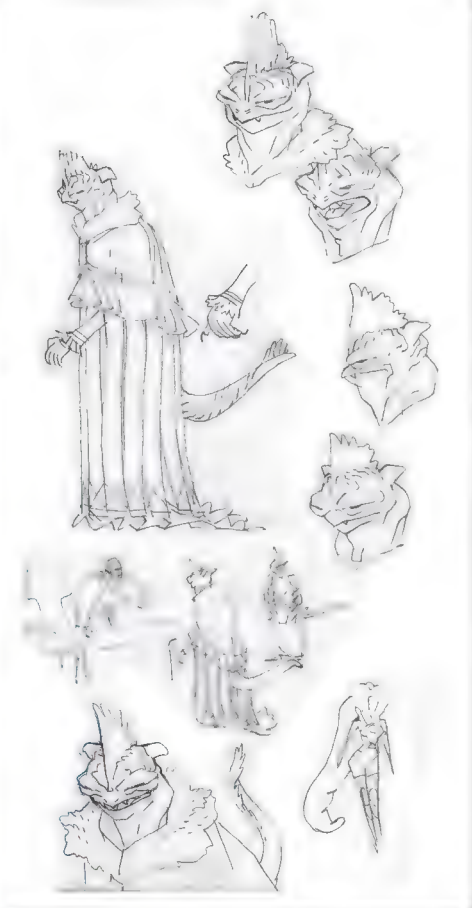
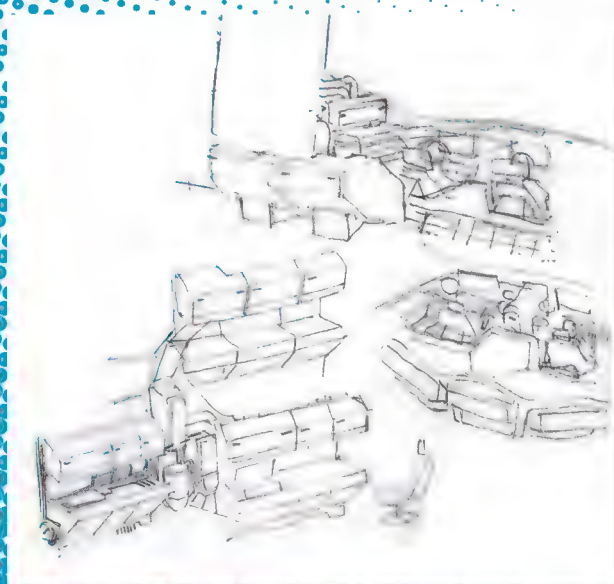


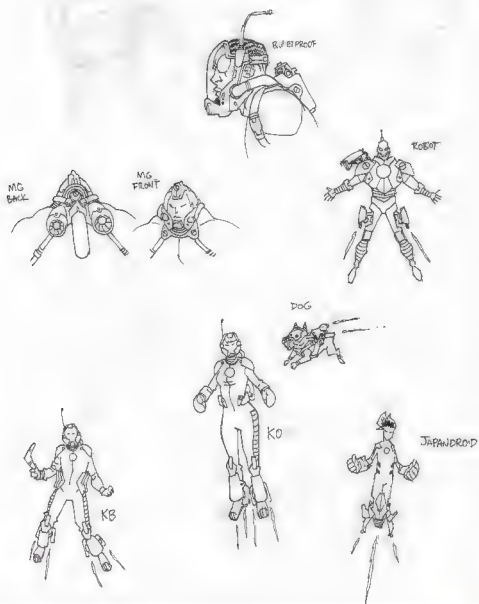


KIRKMAN: More alien awesomeness from Young Mister Walker. I especially love the designs for the bridge of that space ship. Cool stuff.

OTTLEY: UGH! So good. Makes me mad. And sad. And now I'm dripping wet with high amounts of insecurity.

WALKER: We get it, Ryan, you're great and I'm garbage! That Chicken Lizard that was griping at Allen was pretty hard to wrap my head around. I must have had three pages in my sketchbook trying to get that guy right, Ryan, and I still don't know that I did your design justice.

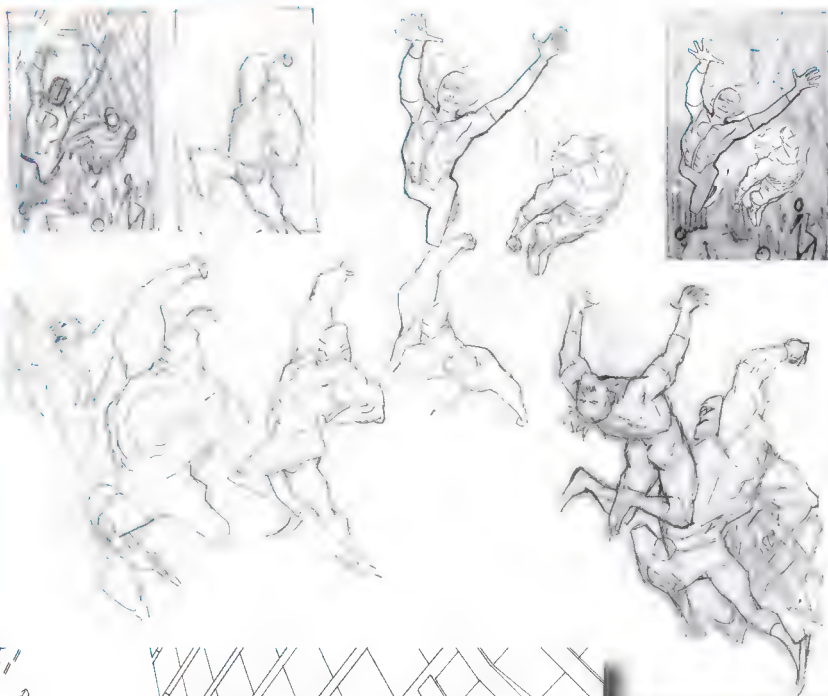




KIRKMAN: It was decided at some point that Dinosaurus should have a cooler costume. The first one kind of looked like a big metal diaper... kind of. So Ryan set out to make it look awesome. And he succeeded. I originally didn't like the shirt... but now I think it looks pretty cool... I can't decide. Also, on the page... cool new designs for Thragg's costume.

OTTLEY: *Sigh. I feel sick.*

WALKER: Call me crazy, but I like the metal diaper. Metal leggings look pretty sweet too, though. Dinosaurus is so cool. Another great design by Ryan that is impossible to be drawn as well by anyone else. Really strong Thragg designs, too. Give yourself more credit, handsome.



KIRKMAN: Here we see Cory's sketch work for the two covers of his two issues. Great stuff.

OTTLEY: The way Cory can bend figures is mind-boggling. No one doing American comics seem to have this type of skill so advanced.

WALKER: Okay, NOW you're making fun.

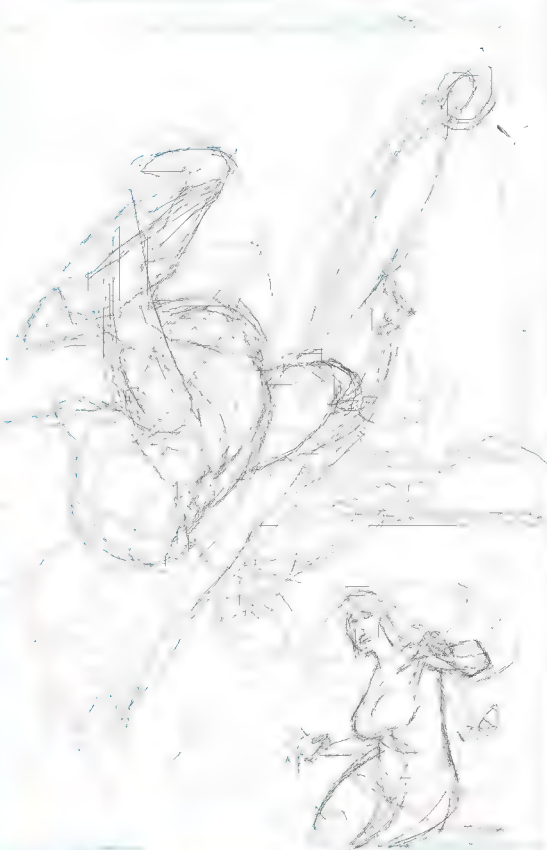
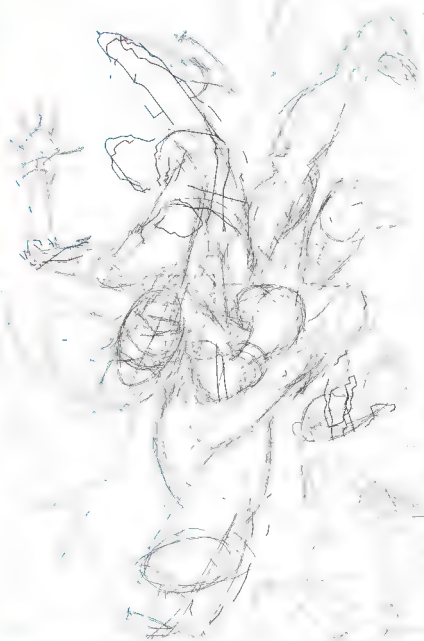


KIRKMAN: I know it's simple- but I LOVE this cover by Ryan for issue 87. It's a totally cool pose and it's really dynamic... it's just cool stuff. Great job, Ryan!

WALKER: Yeah, Ryan! THAT'S some mind-boggling figure bending.

OTTLEY: I hate this cover. With a passion. I remember you called and said "Hey I need the cover to 87, due yesterday." So I finished it in a few hours. I need to spend more time on this stuff.





KIRKMAN: Another great cover from Ryan. Ryan, how do you make this look so awesome?

OTTLEY: I like the issue 88 cover, I did a lot of digital sketching to try to feel that punch out. Really fun stuff.

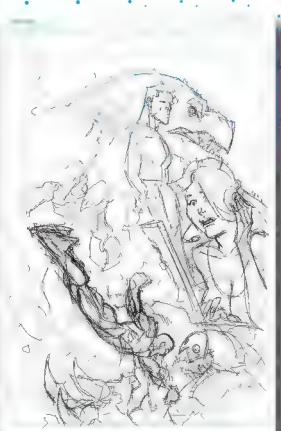
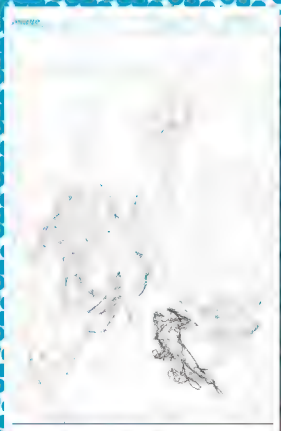
WALKER: You're so good at it, Ryan.

KIRKMAN: Final inks for 89--awesome stuff. You kind of have to go to the Erik Larsen School of Dudes Punching Each Other On Covers to get that stuff right. Pretty awesome. Oh, and Bulletproof makes his debut as the new Invincible on the cover of 89, I really loved this drawing; such an exciting, powerful image of a dude just... doing nothing. You really did a great job on that one.

OTTLEY: How cool would that be if more artists had their own schools?! I'd go to a Larsen school in a heartbeat, and you're paying my tuition.

WALKER: I helped with the hair.





KIRKMAN: The Walking Dread! This was a cool, busy cover executed perfectly, although it seems to have taken a long time to get it there. I'm just going to kiss Ryan's butt for the rest of this sketchbook section. I love you Ryan Ottley!

OTTLEY: Yes Robert, drawing takes time. I really hope one day we can trade for an issue: I'll write, you draw.

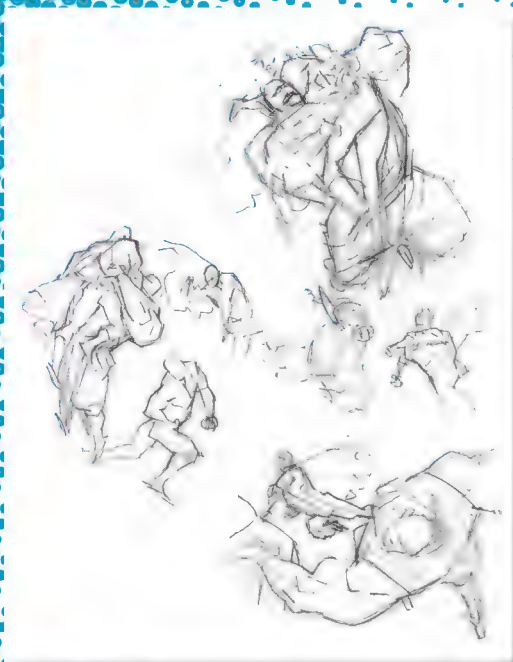
WALKER: Nice one. Remember when we were on the set of the movie PAUL, and you guys created this guy and then I yelled out his name like I had just come up with it because I wasn't paying attention? Crazy things happen when you're three cool guys hanging out on the set of the movie PAUL.



KIRKMAN: Oh, Omnipotent--I wish you were in every issue of *Invincible*.

OTTLEY: Me too! He's way cool. But he's dead...right? I guess he could have a kid that comes back and finds *Dinosaurus* and *Invincible* and the best way to reach them to exact revenge is to infiltrate the Guardians of the Globe to get closer and befriend them and fight crime with them and then **STRIKE!** Boom, he's in every issue! See, I can write.





KIRKMAN: More pencil and ink magic from the esteemed mister Ottley. Oh, and some coolness from Cory Walker. Great stuff.

OTTLEY: Cliff did the inks for these interior pages. I really love the way he did the Kirby crackle. I talked to him about that and apologized thinking it would be hard. He told me it's easy, all done with a brush. Cliff inks the way the old masters do, with a brush and ink. I've tried, it's REALLY hard. I prefer brush pens and regular drawing pens. Cliff is the man.

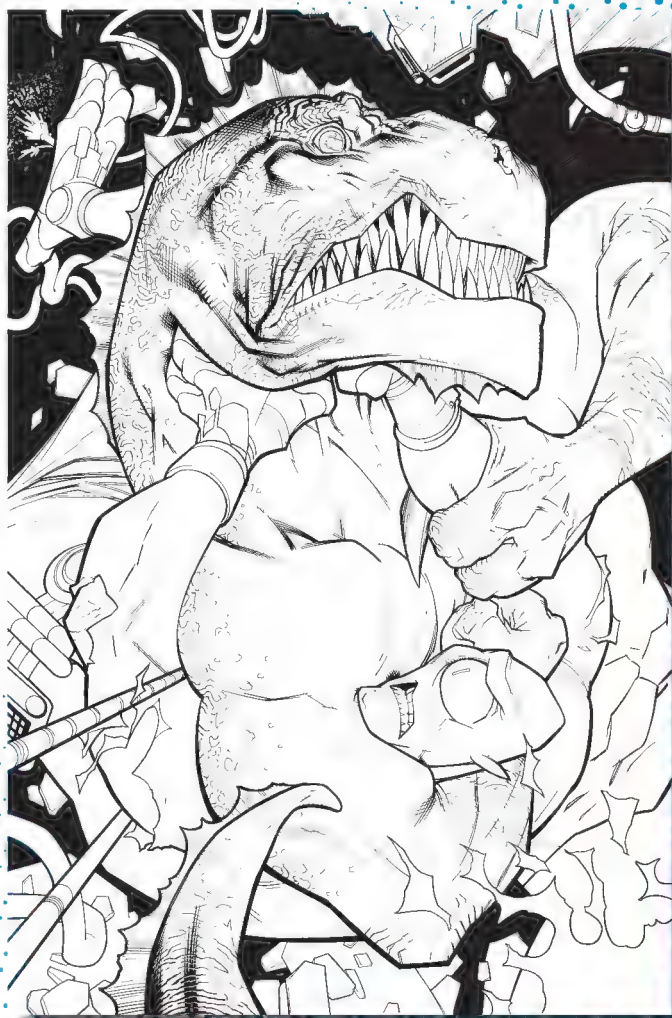
WALKER: Cliff is a real whiz.



KIRKMAN: I absolutely love this page... it's a really tight shot but you can really see the power of both guys involved. This is a great example of a page coming in and really far exceeding my expectations on what this page could be. Well done, Ryan!

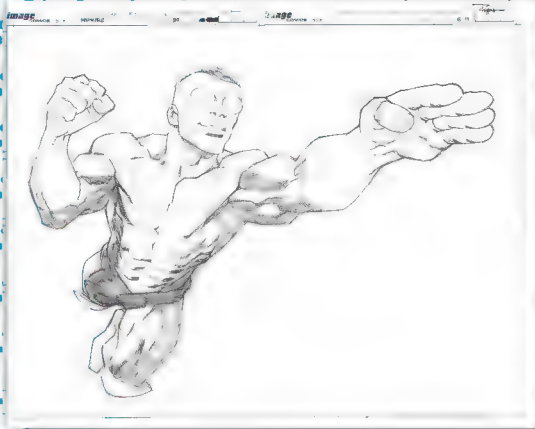
OTTLEY: Thanks! This took me a few tries. At first, I wanted to try a more realistic grappling hold, so I looked at a few poses in MMA magazines and drew a few. They looked terrible. Referencing reality kills dynamism. Every time. So, after much frustration, I threw the magazines out and started anew. Instead of worrying about full bodies and any special fighting poses I just went for a tight close-up shot and had fun with it.

WALKER: I also absolutely love this page. I first saw it when Kirkman sent a colored jpeg to me, and I'd be a liar if I said it didn't cause me to make a mess of myself in my jeans region. It's just another fine example of Ryan being one of the top superhero artists working today. I love you, Ryan Ottley!!





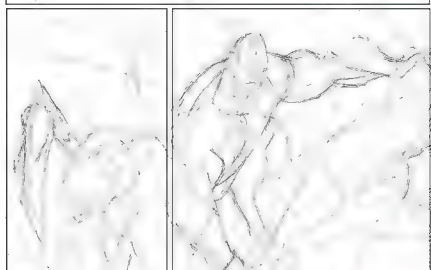
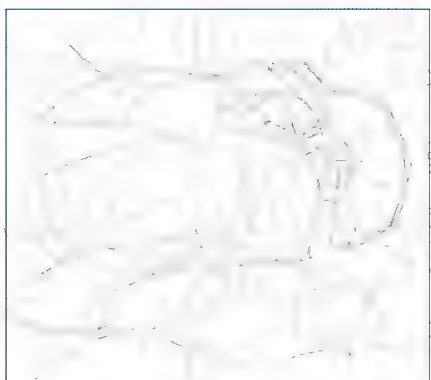
KIRKMAN: The only thing better than cutting corners is when it's completely justified thematically and totally awesome. It's a new Invincible, in that famous pose! Of course he'd be flying over the same background, right?! Right?!



OTTLEY: *Word Robert! It was nice to not have to re-draw that background. I just re-used the background I drew from issue 36. Robert first told me, to save time, just re-use the background AND the pose, and re-draw Bulletproof's face in there. I quickly decided to re-draw the whole pose after seeing my old drawing. Go back and compare and you can see the difference of how I did anatomy then and now if you want to see where I'm coming from.*

WALKER: I support your decision to do what you did, Ryan, and it looks great. You re great.



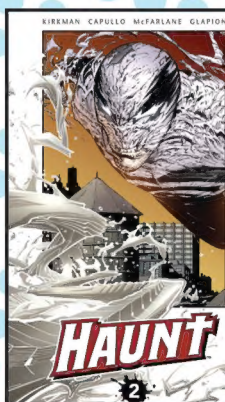
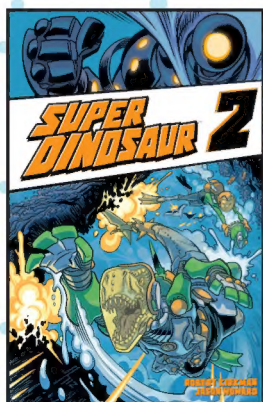


KIRKMAN: Some awesome layouts for some awesome pages. I have to say, just to butter up Ryan even more, this book is a blast to write and that's due in large part to the fact that I know I can throw whatever I come up with into the book and Ryan will be able to not only handle it--but also make it look a thousand times better than it does in my head. It's a real treat to be able to see it all come together.

OTTLEY: Awww shucks. Thanks. Now I no longer feel insecure at all. I'm cured. I want a raise.

WALKER: Goodbye, everybody!

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